

Wake County Taxpayers Association

J. Russell Capps, President

September 19, 2012

AdvanceED North Carolina
Western Carolina University
91 Killian Building Lane, Suite 203
Cullowhee, NC 28723
Attention: Dr. Dona James, Director

RE: Filing of Complaint, Wake County Public School System

Dear Dr. James,

The Wake County Taxpayers Association (WCTA.org) is a non-partisan, all volunteer organization comprised of citizens from throughout Wake County who are concerned with efficient and responsive government. For years, we have been actively engaged in supporting effective education in Wake County and in improving the performance of our school system. As an organization focused in tax payer dollars and seeing that the tax dollars are spent wisely, we are cognizant of and concerned about how the \$1.4 billion in the current budget of the Wake County School System is allocated and utilized.

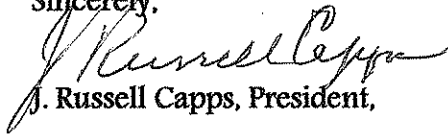
The WCTA is hereby filing a complaint against the Wake County Board of Education on behalf of the thousands of students and families who are being negatively affected by the Board's poor governance, inept and irresponsible leadership, and lack of transparency and direction.

The most recent AdvanceED Monitoring Visit Report of the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), dated November 29-30, 2011, clearly outlined Required Actions demanded of WCPSS, the current progress of such actions and subsequent findings from your review team. This report indicates WCPSS and the Board at the time "has demonstrated significant improvement", that "the overall climate of the school system has improved dramatically" and that "there is far less acrimony among board members and voting patterns have improved."

Since that report, the new Board majority's actions and behavior have seriously undermined many of the recognized improvements and have created a climate of fear and intimidation

with stakeholders and the community. Each of the fifteen complaints being filed is fully supported with documentation that is attached. These complaints are factual, not suppositional, and witnessed personally by myself and others of our membership. We respectfully request your investigation of these numerous complaints outlined and documented in the attached filing.

Sincerely,



J. Russell Capps, President,

cc. Mark Elgart

From the AdvancED Monitoring Visit Report, November 29-30, 2011:

Required Action 2:

Analyze and revise the “node” system of assigning students to schools to ensure objectivity, transparency and consistency. *Action:* Completed

COMPLAINT:

1. The Resolution Approving Student Assignment Plan, adopted with a 6-2 vote on October 18, 2011, which supported the new Choice Assignment Plan, directed “*..that the student assignment plan will remain in effect for a minimum of three years, allowing continuity for students and families.*” This directive was communicated to stakeholders over the months of public engagement. On June 19, 2012, the new Board majority subverted that promise and directed staff to create a new plan for the 2013-14 school year. The expectations and agreement with the stakeholders on the promises of the new plan were immediately discarded.

Attachments:

- 2-1-1 Board Resolution Approving Student Assignment Plan, October 18, 2011
 - 2-1-2 Sutton Precis
2. The intent of the Board to subvert the new assignment plan was not communicated to the public nor were any stakeholder meetings held to support the change in direction. The June 19, 2012 Board meeting was held late into the night and the 5-4 vote to drastically alter student assignment was done at 1:00 AM on June 20th. Chair Hill placed this item as #30 on the Board agenda and a 5-4 vote at 10:38 PM extended the meeting past 11:00 PM to accommodate this vote. The Board majority’s complete lack of transparency and exclusion of public input has created uncertainty and discontent among parents about their children’s educational futures.

Attachments:

- 2-2-1 June 19, 2012 Board Agenda
 - 2-2-2 Original Precis for June 19 Board meeting
 - 2-2-3 Board minutes for June 19 Board meeting, not publically available as of today’s date.
3. During this same June 19, 2012 Board meeting, Board member Susan Evans publicly rejects the concerns and involvement of educational and community advocacy groups, Wake Education Partnership and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, who were intimately involved and consulted during the seven months of creating the new assignment plan. Evans states “*While I acknowledge that, first of all, the Raleigh Chamber and the Wake Ed Partnership are valuable partners in our community ... I just wanted to remind Ms. Prickett and the board that we are the elected officials charged with making these important decisions on behalf of the school system.*”

Wake County Taxpayers Association

Wake County, North Carolina

J. Russell Capps, President

September 19, 2012

Mr. Mark Elgart, Executive Director
AdvanceED
9115 Westside Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30009

RE: Filing of Complaint, Wake County Public School System

Dear Mr. Elgart,

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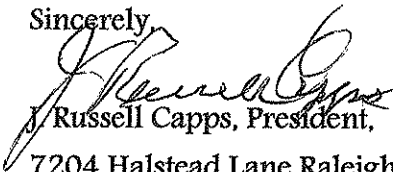
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with stakeholders and the community. Each of the fifteen complaints being filed is fully supported with documentation that is attached. These complaints are factual, not suppositional, and witnessed personally by myself and others of our membership. We respectfully request your investigation of these numerous complaints outlined and documented in the attached filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Russell Capps", is written over the printed name.

J. Russell Capps, President,

7204 Halstead Lane Raleigh, NC 27613

Attachments

Attachments:

- 2-3-1 News & Observer, "Change in Wake student assignment plan draws reaction", June 20, 2012
- 2-3-2 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Wake Education Partnership "extremely disappointed" in Wake County school board's student assignment decision*, June 20, 2012
- 2-3-3 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce "disappointed" in Wake County school board's student assignment vote*, June 20, 2012

4. Alteration of the Choice Assignment Plan was completed with extreme influence of Great Schools in Wake (GSIW), a partisan political group whose members include at least three of the newly-elected Board members. In an email dated 5/19/2012 from GSIW, its leader updates the members that the group has been *"working to get the Board to at least direct the staff for the 2013 assignment plan."* Further, the leader of GSIW indicates, *"...the need for New Plan directive for staff to start working on now"*. Then, at the June 19, 2012 meeting, the Board majority approved a directive 5-4 that directs staff to create a new 2013 assignment plan immediately, exactly what GSIW dictates in the email. The Board majority violated Policy 1035, B2: *Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups*; and Policy 1005: *It is important that a Board member is nonpartisan in dealing with school matters and that he/she not subordinate the education of children and youth to any partisan principle, group, interest, or personal ambition which is to subordinate education to a partisan group.*

Attachment:

- 2-4-1 GSIW Directive, May 20, 2012
- 2-4-2 Indyweekly Article, stating that GSIW critique will be taken seriously, and the reason why, January 2012
- 2-4-3 News and Observer post asking – 'how do they know how to set the stage for the June 5 meeting?', May 21, 2012

5. Susan Evans and Christine Kushner were and possibly are still active leaders in this group; Jim Martin is a member. In February 2012, Superintendent Tata asserted publically that there was undue influence of the Board by GSIW.

Attachments:

- 2-5-1 Indyweekly Article stating Susan Evans member of GSIW, and alignment of Christine Kushner and Jim Martin with group, January 2012
- 2-5-2 Indyweekly Article stating Jim Martin is a member of GSIW, June 2011.
- 2-5-3 News & Observer post, regarding Susan Evans/Christine Kushner accepting award on behalf of GSIW, February 22, 2012

Required Action 3:

Establish and implement an agenda setting process to ensure that every member of the Board of Education and key system leadership are well-prepared for each Board meeting. *Action* : Completed

COMPLAINT:

1. Board member Kevin Hill attempted to schedule work sessions thru the superintendent prior to being elected Board chair, circumventing the then-current chairman. Discussions and deliberations were being held amongst the new majority about their votes in electing new Board leadership. Board member Jim Martin acknowledges this in the media.

Attachments:

- 3-1-1 News & Observer, "Review of Wake school assignment plan likely", November 21, 2011
 - 3-1-2 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Kevin Hill asking for Dec 7 work session on student assignment*, November 21, 2011
2. November – December 2011, Board member Kevin Hill inappropriately scheduled a secret meeting of the newly elected Board majority prior to being elected and assuming responsibilities as chair. Further, on December 7, 2011, the newly sworn-in majority secretly attended said meeting to discuss reassignment with educational consultant Mr. Michael Alves. The remaining minority members (4) were not made aware of this meeting nor was the public notified. As a quorum was in attendance, meeting details should have been posted and the meeting should have been made open to the public. This is a violation of Board Policies 1300 and 1320 and again demonstrates the lack of transparency and secrecy of the Board majority.

Attachments:

- 3-2-1 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Wake County GOP school board members complain about not being told of meeting with Michael Alves*, January 5, 2012
 - 3-2-2 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Raising more questions about Michael Alves' unannounced meeting with new Wake County school board members*, January 13, 2012
 - 3-2-3 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *County school board member Debra Goldman on becoming the board "watchdog"*, January, 20, 2012
 - 3-2-4 News 14, "Tensions between political parties rise on Wake school board", January 5, 2012
 - 3-2-5 News & Observer, "Secret meeting riles Wake school Republicans", January 7, 2012
3. Chairman Hill allowed offensive and intimidating behavior by members of GSIW during public board meetings. This behavior, which was condoned by Chair Hill, created fear and uneasiness among citizens wishing to speak during public comment. Many chose not to attend due to the rude, disruptive and bullying behavior. Chairman Hill allowed this behavior to continue for much of the first and second

quarter of 2012, until public outcry regarding the hostile environment was published in the local newspaper. This is a violation of Policies 1323, 1326 and 1330.

Attachments:

- 3-3-1 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Wake County school board members Deborah Prickett and Debra Goldman sound off about GSIW and the public's behavior*, including email sent to Chairman Hill from concerned parent, April 10, 2012
- 3-3-2 News & Observer, Letter to the Editor, March 29, 2012, "F is for Courtesy"
- 3-3-3 Email to parent from Chair Hill, March 28, 2012

Required Action 5:

Provide on-going cohesive and consistent training to all members of the Board of Education regarding their roles, responsibilities, and the strategic direction of the school system. Action: Completed

COMPLAINT:

1. In March 2012, an email was exposed in which Board member Susan Evans refers to Superintendent Tata in a derogatory manner. Those included in this email were all leaders or members of GSIW. This is a violation of Policy 1035 which is the Code of Ethics.

Attachments:

- 5-1-1 News & Observer, "Tata Claims School Board Members Have Potential Ethics Violations", February 21, 2012
 - 5-1-2 Email from Board member Susan Evans to members of GSIW, March 7, 2012
2. During the May 15, 2012 public Board meeting, Board member Susan Evans tells Board member Debra Goldman to "just hush". Minutes later, she tells Board member Deborah Prickett to "get a life". There seems to be little understanding by Ms. Evans of meeting decorum and job requirements. This is a violation of Policy 1035 which states: "*Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff and all elements of the community.*"

Attachment:

- 5-2 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Wake County school board on the level of bus service for preassigned feeders students*, May 16, 2012
3. In an email exchange between Board members dated 3/28/2012, Chair Hill requests and encourages off-the-record and private discussions and deliberations between the Board members about school business. In this email, Hill states: "*If concerns continue to exist, I believe that professionalism dictates that concerns / questions of this nature be discussed face-to-face and not in the public eye.*"

Attachment:

- 5-3 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Wake County school board member Jim Martin alleging political partisanship in bell schedule changes*, April 9, 2012
4. Private deliberations were held regarding the placement of WCPSS Leadership academies at Peace University with a majority of Board members. Peace College had initially agreed, and then after the private deliberations with the newly elected majority – at the exclusion of the minority, the President of Peace called the agreement off by stating that ‘*due to the division and controversy on the Wake County Public School System board*’, the university was removing itself from consideration.

Attachment:

- 5-4 Peace University Backs Out – compilation of articles from the News and Observer, WCPSS and Peace.
5. Board member Jim Martin, a professor at North Carolina State University, requested a discussion in the Policy Committee to create a policy that would specifically benefit NCSU professors. Per Dr. Martin, the provost of NCSU requested his assistance in this matter. This is a violation of Policy 1036 and 1035, using the Board position for personal gain and avoiding impropriety.

Attachment:

- 5-5 News & Observer, WakeEd blog, *Wake County school board committee debates guaranteeing school spots for families who want to return*, May 30, 2012
6. On July 8, 2012, Chair Hill presented a document titled “*Possible Seat Allocation for 2012-13*” via email to the Board. That document included a draft date of “6/18/12”. The 5-4 vote to alter the new choice plan with these new directives was not taken until June 19, 2012 (actually close to 1:00 AM on June 20th), the day after the document was drafted. This is further proof that the Board majority is deliberating and discussing their votes privately, moving forward assuredly with decisions that have not yet been voted upon. This violates the Open Meeting Law requirement of conducting Board business in an open and public manner.

Attachment:

- 5-6 Draft of Possible Seat Allocation
7. During the July 25, 2012 Board work session, the News & Observer reports Board member Susan Evans’ racist comments about the trends of the new choice plan and her concern with the percentage of “white kindergartners”.

Attachment:

- 5-7 News & Observer, “Wake school board delays decision on low-income students”, July 25, 2012

After an examination of this overwhelming evidence, we conclude that the actions and behaviors of members of the Wake County Board of Education undermined the efficacy of Required Actions outlined in the 2011 AdvancED monitoring report. Moreover, the actions described here do not adhere to the accreditation standards and policies articulated by AdvancED and administered by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS/CASI). For these compelling reasons, we ask that your office commence an investigation to determine the validity of the claims and the corrective actions to be taken.

Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Russell Capps
President

Wake County Taxpayers Association

~~1821 Falls Church Road~~

7204 HALSTEAD LN
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-3544 27613

cappsraleigh9198@bellsouth.net

919. 846.9199 (h)

919. 815.2412 (c)

Enclosures

cc: Mark Elgart



RESOLUTION APPROVING STUDENT ASSIGNMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2011, the Wake County Board of Education assigned Superintendent Tata the responsibility for developing a student assignment proposal based upon Policy 6200, Student Assignment, and

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Education made this decision with the knowledge that rapid growth over the past two decades has challenged the district's ability to provide adequate seats, resulting in numerous adjustments to the existing assignment model. At the opening of the 2011-2012 school year, the district served over 146,000 students with a projected enrollment of over 200,000 in 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Education recognizes that stability, choice, proximity, and student achievement play a crucial role in the development of a student assignment proposal that serves children, families, and the community. All children and their families benefit from a strong sense of community. Proximity to a child's school affects opportunities for engagement. Parents should have the opportunity to make choices concerning their child's education. All children deserve a high-quality education, and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Tata immediately identified a task force with the sole responsibility of working on the assignment plan over the past seven months. The Task Force was composed of experts representing different divisions across the Wake County Public School System, as well as external experts to serve as consultants, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force started the process by conducting extensive research which included a review of current assignment plans in twenty-two districts across the nation, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force held twenty sessions to gather public input with over 4,000 comments from community members, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force executed an assignment simulation in which over 21,000 people participated. The Task Force traveled to twenty-three locations throughout the district to encourage feedback and assist parents, as needed, and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Tata has continuously involved the Wake County Board of Education and different community groups to gather feedback, and

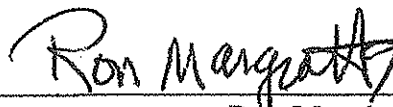
WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Education accepted public comments related to student assignment at each action meeting during the last seven months, and the Wake County Board of Education held a separate public hearing on October 13, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent's student assignment proposal, as well as the importance of finalizing a student assignment plan for the 2012-13 school year, have consistently received support from different stakeholder groups within the community, and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake Board of Education approves the student assignment proposal presented by the Superintendent, which promotes stability, choice, proximity, and student achievement. The student assignment proposal also provides the flexibility necessary for high growth and supports success for all students.

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the student assignment plan will remain in effect for a minimum of three years, allowing continuity for students and families. The Superintendent will have ultimate responsibility for implementing the student assignment plan. A Committee including internal and external stakeholders will be established for the purpose of ensuring continuous improvement of the student assignment plan. The Committee's responsibilities will include evaluating the process utilized in implementing the student assignment plan, evaluating the impact on the community, and making recommendations to the Superintendent regarding possible changes. The Superintendent will develop and provide the Wake County Board of Education with quarterly updates which will include implementation results, operational challenges, and recommendations for improvement.

Approved and adopted this 18th day of October 2011.



Ron Margiotta, Chair
Wake County Board of Education



Anthony J. Tata, Superintendent
Wake County Public School System

Precis

Board members, as well as students, parents and members of the community, have expressed concerns about some of the effects of the current student assignment plan that does not provide base school assignments. Board direction is requested on considering any adjustments to the student assignment plan for 2013-14 to incorporate the use of base school assignments.

Fiscal Implications: To be determined.

Recommendation for Action: Board direction is requested.

Backup

The Wake County Board of Education directs the superintendent and staff to begin developing a revised Wake County Student Assignment Plan for the 2013 – 14 school year. This effort should evaluate the current and previous assignment plans and integrate the best practices and strategies gained from the institutional knowledge of the Office of Growth and Planning (previous plan), and the data and research obtained by the Student Assignment Task Force (choice plan).

Finding an effective and sustainable means to assign students in Wake County has been a challenge, due to population growth, budget constraints, and other factors. While varying segments of the community place higher priorities on certain values, there are several key components that should be included in the proposed plan. They are as follows:

- Student achievement
- Stability
- Proximity

Student Achievement

The Wake County Student Assignment Plan will play a critical role in developing and maintaining a system of healthy schools throughout the county that supports student achievement and equity. While every school may not be equal in terms of its needs and allocation of resources, the district will make every effort to ensure that each school provides the maximum opportunity for all students and teachers to succeed and that every child is provided with a high quality educational experience. To accomplish this, academic achievement targets will be developed to determine a range for optimal school performance. In addition, the Board will revisit Policy 6200 to develop appropriate socio-economic factors to consider in the assignment process. These may include the use of census data, and/or individual data provided by parents such as income, educational attainment, or other information.

Stability

A focus on stability of assignment will be integral to the development of a multi-year plan. This will involve a periodic review of the plan at least every three years to monitor indicators such as population growth, demographic shifts, academic trends, and school performance data, as well as, program preferences expressed by parents. Thorough reviews and regular updates of the node system will increase stability by providing the system with the ability to keep neighborhoods and subdivisions

cohesive and intact, to the extent possible. Other possible features that should provide increased stability may include the development of a “stay where you start” policy, and programmatic feeder priorities.

Proximity

Over the last two years, the System has worked to increase the number of students who attend schools closer to their homes. A base assignment plan will build on these efforts by assigning a school or schools that are within a proximate distance to each known address. This effort will provide each student a school assignment within a reasonable distance of his or her residence, and it will also provide prospective families to the area with a reasonable degree of predictability of a base school assignment. Current residents who are newcomers to the school system such as charter school and home-schooled students, will also have the same reasonable degree of predictability. Seat capacity is critical to success in achieving this goal.

This directive is intended to set a clear path for establishing a solid foundation upon which any successful assignment plan in Wake County can be built. This directive is not intended to be a policy or establish policy. It sets forth measurable objectives, targets and a sequence of tasks that the Wake County Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to perform as we move forward in the planning and implementation of the assignment plan for the 2013-2014 school year and beyond.

The Board directs staff to propose an assignment plan that is a multi-year address-based student assignment plan that provides reasonable predictability and stability in assignment. The plan should make student achievement a high priority at every school, while making sure that every student attends a reasonably proximate school. The goal of this plan is to also ensure that every student in the Wake County Public School System attends a healthy school.

Task Outline/Items for Consideration

Program and System Reviews

- Magnet Review (in process)
- Facility Utilization Review (in process)
- Node System Review

Policy Development

- Policy 6200
- Stability Policy – “Stay Where You Start” Policy over a grade span

Choice

- Expanded Magnet Options
- Calendar Choices
- Theme Schools and Academies (STEM, Global Network, Leadership)
- Programmatic Feeder Priorities
- Open transfer process for available capacity

Community Engagement/Customer Service

- Family Assignment Counselors
- Satellite Outreach Centers

http://www.wcpss.net/Board/agendas_schedules/06_19_2012-agenda.html

OPEN SESSION - REVISED

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 P.M.

QUORUM DETERMINATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD ATTORNEY

SUMMARY / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. QUORUM DETERMINATION – already established

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – already established

4. INFORMATION

Chair's Comments

Superintendent's Comments

Board Members' Comments

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT – 6 P.M.

Citizens who sign up to address the Board during public comment will be called on in priority order first for items on the agenda and then for items not on the agenda. Each individual speaker will be allowed three minutes for remarks. Issues or concerns involving personnel matters are not appropriate for this public comment setting. After 30 minutes of public comment, any speakers remaining will be recognized at the end of the agenda for their comments.

INFORMATION ITEMS

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

6. COMMON CORE TRANSITION

Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, Wake County Schools will transition to the Common Core/Essential Standards Curriculum. We are providing an overview of the transition to the Common Core/Essential Standards Curriculum including an understanding of the changes and the associated training and preparation for implementation. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: The presentation is for information purposes only.

7. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – ESEA WAIVER REQUEST

North Carolina is one of eight states receiving flexibility waivers from key provisions of No Child Left Behind in exchange for state-developed plans to prepare all students for college and career, focus aid on the neediest students, and support effective teaching and leadership. US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the new round of waiver approvals on Tuesday. To date, 19

states have received waiver approval, and another 18 waiver plans are under review. This decision comes after several months of peer reviews and negotiation with the US Department of Education. Through this process, North Carolina education leaders clarified information provided in support of its waivers and adjusted some elements of the state's plan. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: The presentation is for information purposes only.

CONSENT ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

8. March 6, 2012-Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2012-Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes

FACILITIES

9. RECOMMENDATION FOR CHANGES TO TRANSPORTATION

BOARD POLICIES 7105, 7125, 7155, AND 7160

Second Reading.

Several student transportation policies are being revised to incorporate provisions of the Choice Assignment Plan. These revisions to the policies were reviewed by the Superintendent's Leadership Team on May 7, 2012 and then again on May 21, 2012. The Policy Committee reviewed the revisions on May 29, 2012 and the Board accepted the first reading on June 5, 2012. Fiscal Implications: None. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

10. CONTRACT FOR REAL ESTATE LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The current contract for real estate legal support services with Boxley, Bolton, Garber & Haywood, LLP, expires on June 30, 2012, and a new contract has been negotiated for the next fiscal year. Services will be provided as needed to assist in real estate matters involving real estate owned or leased by the Board, as well as real estate to be acquired. The scope of this contract does not include services as closing attorney, because that work is accomplished by the County Attorney. The contract term is from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, and it includes a termination clause. A copy of the proposed contract and a memo describing current, on going, and potential real estate issues are attached. Staff recommends approval in accordance with Board Policy 1214. Fiscal Implications: The maximum annual

amount of \$60,000 proposed in the agreement includes fees for services based upon an hourly rate schedule which is the same as that for the Board Attorney. A separate purchase order in the amount of \$2,000 will cover reimbursements of out-of-pocket expenses advanced by the firm. Funding is available from the CIP 2006 Land Purchase budget. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

11. AMENDMENT ONE TO GLOBAL TRANSLATION SYSTEMS, INC.

Federal and state laws require that public school systems must take steps to ensure that the parents of a child with a disability are afforded the opportunity to participate in developing their child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). This includes arranging for an interpreter for parents whose language is other than English. We contract with Global Translation Systems to provide interpreting services for families of students with disabilities. Because of the increased number of students whose parents speak and understand a language other than English, we are experiencing an increased need for interpreting services late in this school year as compared to the 2010-11 school year. Prior to the beginning of May 2012 the highest number of weekly appointments totaled 65. The first two weeks of May the number of appointments scheduled for each of the first two weeks in May exceeded 100 appointments. The total number of appointments scheduled in 2010-11 was 1875. So far this year Special Education has scheduled 2095 appointments, an 11% increase. Appointments will continue to be requested through the end of June. Because of this increase and our requirement to provide these services, Special Education Services is requesting to increase our contract with Global by \$30,000. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the Special Education Services' budget in the amount of \$305,000 is to be used to pay the cost of these services. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

12. CONTRACT WITH BAYADA HEALTHCARE, INC.

We are contracting with Bayada Healthcare, Inc., to provide nursing services for three (3) identified special education students who are medically fragile. The hourly rate is \$42.25 for an RN and \$39.65 for an LPN. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the Special Education Services' budget in the amount of \$131,000 is to be used to pay the cost of these services. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

13. CONTRACT WITH I AM UNIQUE SPECIAL CARE AND CASE

MANAGEMENT

We are contracting with I Am Unique Special Care & Case Management to provide nursing services for two (2) identified special education students this school year. These students require one on one skilled nursing. The hourly rate is \$36.44 for an RN or LPN. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the Special Education Services' budget in the amount of \$104,947.20 is to be used to pay the cost of these services. Savings: Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is request.

14. CONTRACT WITH MAXIM HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC.

We are contracting with Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc. to provide nursing services for five (5) identified special education students who are medically fragile. The hourly rate is \$42 for an RN and \$39 for an LPN which is the same per hour rate for 2011-12. Maxim also provides Habilitation Technicians at an hourly rate of \$29 for emergency situations. Over the past few years Hab Techs have been utilized two to three times per year for an average cost of \$500 per year. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the Special Education Services' budget in the amount of \$246,960 is to be used to pay the cost of these services. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

15. CONTRACT WITH PEDIATRIC SERVICES OF AMERICA

We are contracting with Pediatric Services of America, Inc. to provide nursing services for five (5) identified special education students who are medically fragile. The hourly rate is \$42.00 for an RN and \$40.00 for an LPN. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the Special Education Services' budget in the amount of \$302,400 is to be used to pay the cost of these services. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

16. CONTRACT WITH TLC OPERATIONS (TAMMY LYNN CENTER

FOR DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES)

Tammy Lynn Center provides special education and related services to students with special needs. The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) has contracted with developmental day centers for over twenty years to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities ages three (3) through twenty one (21). The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction provides funding for students receiving services in developmental day centers. Fiscal Implications: The State of North Carolina provides categorical monies totaling \$9,991.00 per child, per year, for children ages three (3) through twenty one (21) served in Developmental Day Centers. In addition, each year, the state provides \$50.00 per child per year to help provide needed supplies and materials. Funding from the state in the amount of \$210,861 (or approved state Developmental Day program rate) is to be used for these services. WCPSS will pay a fee not to exceed \$189,340.20 to provide nursing services for three (3) students placed by an IEP Team at Tammy Lynn Developmental Day. WCPSS

will also pay a fee not to exceed \$106,009.09 for related services and an additional teacher assistant. The total amount of the contract is \$506,210.29. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

17. EAST GARNER MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP TO ROME,

ITALY AND ATHENS, GREECE

- Students participating will be representative of grades 6 through 8.
- Approximately 18 students and 3 chaperones will participate providing a 6:1 ratio.
- Students will depart from RDU on Wednesday, June 24, 2013 and return on Monday, July 2, 2013. No school days will be missed.
- This trip is directly tied into the IB philosophy at our school as a Magnet School of Distinction as well as the curriculum throughout all three grade levels with emphasis on the 6th grade Humanities curriculum.

Fiscal Implications: The total cost per student including all airport fees and taxes as well as the 2 optional excursions will be approximately \$3,365. The cost covers all breakfasts and dinners on tour as well as transportation, full-time tour director, city tours, and admittance into all the sites. To make the trip affordable for students with financial hardship, the school will be working with the PTSA in seeking financial assistance through a variety of grants and scholarship funds. Savings: Not Applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

TRANSFORMATION

18. GRANT PROPOSALS

- Competitive (#21512): GlaxoSmithKline, Corporate Grants / Central Services.
- Fiscal Implications: Any required cash and/or in-kind matching contributions vary by grant program. Savings: Grant funding supplements existing resources. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

HUMAN RESOURCES

19. RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

1.Support

2.Contract Central Services Administrator

20. REQUEST FOR LEAVE(S)

BOARD

21. BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Board Advisory Council Chair's submitted reports for the 2011-2012 school year to the Board of Education for their review and approval. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested for the reports submitted.

ACTION ITEMS

22. CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP

On March 31, 2010, WCPSS entered into a 27 month contract with Public Consulting Group to address an electronic format to develop, enter, and monitor IEP, PEP, LEP plans, 504, and SST. The current contract reflects pricing for hosting student plans and documents (currently 86,118 plans and 396,118 documents), serving 62,076 unique students, as well as additional development. Fiscal Implications: WCPSS has negotiated a contract to reflect two years of pricing. Contract year 2012-2013 is not to exceed \$965,000.00. Contract year 2013-2014 is not to exceed \$885,000.00. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

23. CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP

The contract includes activities related to reimbursement for services for "Fee for Service" and "Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC)," both related to Medicaid functions provided by the district. WCPSS began contracting for these services in 1997. Fiscal Implications: The total contract amount for 2012-2013 school year is \$186,000.00 (\$125,000.00 MAC and \$61,000.00 Fee for Service). MAC services are delivered for a flat rate. Fee for Service is billed on percentage of reimbursement. MAC services addressed in this contract will be bid out for fiscal year 2013-2014. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

24. TUITION FEE FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS FOR 2012-2013

Tuition for non-resident students for the 2011-12 school year was set at \$2,720.90. The staff of the Office of Student Assignment recommends that the tuition fee for nonresident students for the 2012-2013 school year be set at \$2,660.00. The recommended fee, as calculated by the Accounting Department, is based on the 2011-2012 county tax appropriation for current expense, capital outlay and capital improvement. There are very few nonresident students who pay tuition. During the current school year, the parents of three seniors who moved out-of- county elected to have their students remain enrolled and pay tuition. Fiscal Implications: Tuition fees collected will go into the general fund. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

25. THOMPSON BUILDING FOR THE WAKE YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP

ACADEMY

On May 15, 2012, the Board assigned Wake Young Men's Academy to a temporary location at the modular campus adjacent to East Millbrook Middle School. Subsequently, discussions with Wake County staff have determined that the former A.A. Thompson School at 567 East Hargett Street is available and would be an ideal location for the permanent home of the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy. Staff provided information to the Board on the building and potential renovations and expansion during the work session discussion. Fiscal Implications: Initial discussions with Wake County indicate that the County will lease the building to WCPSS for \$1 per year. Cost for renovations and potential expansion are being determined. Savings: The proposed lease cost of \$1 per year is far below what would be the cost for any commercial site. Recommendation for Action: That the Board designate the A.A. Thompson School building as the permanent site for the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy, and authorize staff to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement for use of the building with Wake County staff.

FACILITIES

26. SCHEMATIC DESIGN: RICHLAND CREEK ELEMENTARY (E-25)

The CIP 2006 School Building Program includes a new elementary school (Richland Creek) to be built in Wake Forest. The schematic design documents,

prepared by Small Kane Webster Conley Architects, PA, for the construction of E-25 Richland Creek, were presented to and approved by the Facilities Committee on June 12, 2012. Fiscal Implications: The proposed project budget is \$21,553,012, which includes an offsite improvement allowance of \$1,500,000, although the scope for offsite work has not been established yet. A future reallocation from Reserve will be needed at the completion of design to fully fund this project. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

FINANCE

27. ADOPTION OF THE 2012-13 ANNUAL BALANCED BUDGET

RESOLUTION

State statute requires the Wake County Public School System to adopt a budget resolution prior to the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1. The 2012-2013 budget resolution provides the legal document necessary for auditors to see the beginning budget for the school system. The auditors will review the budget resolution and compare it to the July 1, 2012 budget on Oracle to verify our starting point for the year. Any revisions to the budget after July 1 are reported to the board of education monthly. There may be changes to the budget based on actions approved by the Board of Education during the year. These would also be processed upon approval, and the resulting entry included in the monthly summaries. Additional information is attached. Fiscal Implications: To establish the Adopted Budget for the Wake County Public School System for 2012-2013 prior to the beginning of the fiscal year as required by state statute. The budget resolution includes county appropriation revenue for the operating budget of \$XXX (amount will not be determined by Wake County until June 18 and a final précis will be walked-in on June 19) as approved by the Wake County Commissioners. Savings: N/A. Recommendation for Action: To approve the annual budget resolution for fiscal year 2011-2012 in accordance with G.S. 115C 425, 115C-426, 115C-432, and 115C-433.

28. ONE TIME BONUS FOR ALL NON-CERTIFIED POSITIONS,

PRINCIPALS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS, AND NON-SCHOOL BASED

CERTIFIED POSITIONS

It is proposed to use current year savings to provide a one-time bonus to all non-certified positions, principals, assistant principals, and non-school based certified positions. A similar bonus was paid last year to all certified school-based staff below the level of principal and assistant principal. The bonus will be paid to all qualifying staff who are employees of record on

June 1, 2012. The gross amount of the bonus is to be \$500.00, with a pro-rata bonus paid to qualifying staff that are not full time. Members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team are not eligible to receive this bonus. Fiscal Implications: Payment of the proposed bonus will require an estimated \$3.6 million. Savings from the current year budget will be assigned to fund the bonus to be paid in July 2012. Savings: N/A. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

29. REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICIES 2313/3013/4013

First Reading; Request Waiver of Second Reading.

A revision to board policies 2313, 3013, 4013 is required and predicated upon a new FCC requirement, effective July 1, 2012, requiring provision of internet safety training to all students.

The respective board policies have been revised to ensure that the Wake County Public School

System will be in full compliance with the new FCC requirements and will not risk receipt of future E-Rate revenues. Fiscal Implications: N/A. Savings: N/A. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested. Board waiver of second reading is requested.

BOARD

30. STUDENT ASSIGNMENT POLICY REVIEW DIRECTION TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

Board members, as well as students, parents and members of the community, have expressed concerns about some of the effects of the current student assignment plan that does not provide base school assignments. Board direction is requested on considering any adjustments to the student assignment plan for 2013-2014 to incorporate the use of base school assignments.

Fiscal

Implications: To be determined. Recommendation for Action: Board direction is requested.

31. REGIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE SEAT RESERVES

The Wake County Public School System Student Assignment Plan Implementation Year 2012-13 states that "A sufficient percentage of seats at high-performing schools must be allocated for students living in low performing nodes... This should also allow students in these

areas to be selected for a high-performing school without creating a situation where any one school could be selected by a high number of students from low performing nodes thus creating

an unhealthy balance of low performing students at that school." (Page 62, Wake county Public

School System Student Assignment Plan Implementation year 2012-2013)

The Board directs the Superintendent to reserve a number or percentage of seats at each of the

regional high performing schools for the 2012-2013 school year to accommodate students living

in low performing nodes who register after July 18, 2012. Fiscal Implications: To be determined. Recommendation for Action: Superintendent directs staff to establish reserved seats at regional high performance schools.

CLOSED SESSION

- To consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and 115C-319.

- To establish or give instructions concerning the Board's negotiating position related to a potential acquisition of real property, as provided in G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(5).

ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

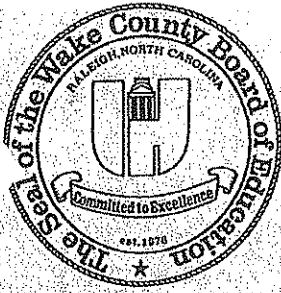
HUMAN RESOURCES

32. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)

33. ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER(S)

34. RECOMMENDATION FOR NON-RENEWAL(S)

Meetings will be held at Crossroads I, 5625 Dillard Drive, Cary, NC 27518 unless otherwise indicated.



Date 06-19-12

Wake County Board of Education *BOARD*

PRECIS

Subject

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT POLICY REVIEW DIRECTION TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

Staff Liaison Present

Keith Sutton, Vice Chair

Main Points

Board members, as well as students, parents and members of the community, have expressed concerns about some of the effects of the current student assignment plan that does not provide base school assignments. Board direction is requested on considering any adjustments to the student assignment plan for 2013-2014 to incorporate the use of base school assignments.

Fiscal Implications

To be determined.

Savings:

Recommendation for Action

Board direction is requested.

The Wake County Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to begin developing a proposal to convert the Wake County Student Assignment Plan for the 2013 – 14 school year from a choice-driven plan to an address-based assignment plan with expanded magnet and theme-school choice. This effort should integrate the best practices and strategies gained from the institutional knowledge of the Office of Growth and Planning and the data and research obtained by the Student Assignment Task Force.

Finding an effective and sustainable means to assign students in Wake County has been a challenge due to population growth, budget constraints, and other factors. While varying segments of the community place higher priorities on certain values, there are several key components that must be taken into consideration for any plan. They are as follows:

- Student achievement
- Stability
- Proximity

Student Achievement

The Wake County Student Assignment Plan will play a critical role in developing and maintaining a system of healthy schools throughout the county that supports student achievement and equity. While every school may not be equal in terms of its needs and allocation of resources, the district will make every effort to ensure that each school provides the maximum opportunity for all students and teachers to succeed and that every child is provided with a high quality educational experience. To accomplish this, academic achievement targets will be developed to determine a range for optimal school performance. In addition, the Board will revisit Policy 6200 to develop appropriate socio-economic factors to consider in the assignment process. These may include the use of census data, and/or individual data provided by parents such as income, educational attainment, or other information.

Stability

A focus on stability of assignment will be integral to the development of a multi-year plan. This will involve a periodic review of the plan at least every three years to monitor indicators such as population growth, demographic shifts, academic trends, and school performance data, as well as, program preferences expressed by parents. Thorough reviews and regular updates of the node system will increase stability by providing the system with the ability to keep neighborhoods and subdivisions cohesive and intact as much as possible. Other possible features that should provide increased stability may include the development of a “stay where you start” policy and programmatic feeder priorities.

Proximity

Over the last two years, the System has worked to increase the number of students who attend schools closer to their homes. A base assignment plan will build on these efforts by assigning a school or schools that are within a proximate distance to each known address. This effort will provide each student a school assignment within a reasonable distance of his or her residence, and it will also provide

prospective families to the area with a reasonable degree of predictability of a base school assignment. Current residents who are newcomers to the school system, such as charter school and home-schooled students, will also have the same reasonable degree of predictability. Seat capacity is critical to success in achieving this goal.

This directive is intended to set a clear path for establishing a solid foundation upon which any successful assignment plan in Wake County can be built. This directive is not intended to be a policy or establish policy. It sets forth measurable objectives, targets, and a sequence of tasks that the Wake County Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to perform as we move forward in the planning and implementation of the assignment plan for the 2013-2014 school year and beyond.

The 2013-2016 assignment plan will be multi-year, address-based student assignment plan that will provide reasonable predictability and stability in assignment. The plan will make student achievement a high priority at every school, while making sure that every student attends a reasonably proximate school. The goal of this plan is to also ensure that every student in the Wake County Public School System attends a healthy school.

By Thomas Goldsmith and T. Keung Hui - tgoldsmith@newsobserver.com

By Thomas Goldsmith and T. Keung Hui The News and Observer

Tags: Wake County schools | student assignment | diversity | Keith Sutton

Members of the Wake County school board's Democratic majority said Wednesday that changes they've requested in the student assignment plan will respond to problems with the current plan and restore student diversity as an aim of the assigning process.

But the board's vote early Wednesday to seek changes in the plan brought strong opposition from the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, as well as from the Republican board members. At a 10-hour work session and board meeting Tuesday and Wednesday, GOP members said the attempt to change the choice-based system adopted in October would create "political chaos."

The Democratic majority said they were responding to constituents' demands to fix problems with the new plan, including a host of difficulties connected to the lack of a base address. Under the current plan, known as "controlled choice," families rank their school choices from a list of schools rather than being automatically assigned based on where they live.

Some real estate agents have objected that the lack of a definite school assignment hurts home sales. Others complained that the system was unfair to newcomers who found the schools in their area already full.

"We have been discussing many of these issues for months," said board member Christine Kushner, a Democrat who supported the call for changes. "It is time to move forward."

Democratic board vice chairman Keith Sutton, who drafted the directive approved by the board, said Wednesday, "People have been clamoring for student achievement, stability and proximity. Choice isn't something that as many people in the community have been clamoring for."

In a statement Wednesday, Wake Education Partnership president Steve Parrott said the nonprofit group was "extremely disappointed in the decision-making process used by the school board and frustrated by the absence of a collaborative approach." The partnership worked with Massachusetts education consultant Michael Alves to help implement the current choice plan.

Alves said it's possible to combine an address-based assignment plan with elements of the choice plan using software that he is leasing to the Wake system. If parents are given a base school that's overcrowded, the system must be able to provide alternatives, he said.

"Certainly the system is learning to manage choice," Alves said. "That experience will be helpful in trying to manage a base-related assignment."

Early Wednesday, the school board's five-member Democratic majority passed the directive to Superintendent Tony Tata and staff to develop a revised assignment plan for the 2013-14 school year.

“There are issues that absolutely needed to be addressed,” Democratic board member Jim Martin said Wednesday. “They weren’t addressed in the old plan; they aren’t addressed in the current plan. The implication is that everything is stable and happy now – it’s not,”

‘It’s not the intent’

The directive, passed on a 5-4 party line vote at 12:53 a.m. Wednesday, said that a new plan should tie addresses to specific schools while also trying to balance school enrollments by student achievement and socioeconomics.

Harvey Schmitt, president of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, said in a Wednesday email to members that he had tried to dissuade the board from venturing into a new plan before Tuesday’s meeting.

“Based on our research we believe that an address-based approach advocated in the directive will require mandatory assignment to fill schools,” Schmitt wrote.

Sutton said that the Raleigh Chamber and the Wake Education Partnership have a misconception of what the board intends to do. He said they’re trying to develop a new plan that has the best elements of the old plan and the current choice plan by stressing student achievement, proximity and stability.

“It’s not an effort to go back the old plan, “ Sutton said Wednesday. “It’s not the intent.”

Sutton and Hill tried to reassure members that any new plan would not create the dire scenarios Republicans raised of increased busing, frequent reassignment and top-down school assignment. A Republican-led board in 2010 eliminated diversity from the assignment policy in favor of allowing families to choose schools closer to where they live.

But Republican member Deborah Prickett was not convinced. “This is yet another threat of more change,” she said “This is nothing more than social engineering.”

Prickett and other Republican board members had repeatedly pointed during the debate to how the business community had backed the choice plan.

“While I acknowledge that, first of all, the Raleigh Chamber and the Wake Ed Partnership are valuable partners in our community ... I just wanted to remind Ms. Prickett and the board that we are the elected officials charged with making these important decisions on behalf of the school system,” said Democratic board member Susan Evans.

Redrawing the ‘nodes’

The three-page directive is short on definitions of terms such as providing “a school assignment within a reasonable distance” of each student’s home. The directive also calls for newcomers and those who enter the system from charter or home schools to have “a reasonable degree of predictability” on a school assignment based on their addresses.

One key to that, Martin said, will be a re-evaluation and redrawing of the county's more than 1,300 attendance "nodes," or small geographic areas that are used for assignments. Drawn up years ago, the nodes should be revised to reflect current neighborhood patterns so that families who live near each other can attend the same schools.

Parents made thousands of complaints under the previous, diversity-based plan that their children were repeatedly reassigned to meet growth and diversity demands. Work on a revised plan should begin shortly in order for it to be presented to the board in September and in place for the 2013-2014 school year.

Tata has been a vocal critic of the old assignment plan and champion of the choice plan. But at a Wednesday news conference he repeatedly said he'd do what the new board majority has directed.

"We serve at the direction of the board, and the board gave direction, and I'm going follow that direction, and we're going to get to work," Tata said.

Republican school board member John Tedesco warned that the turmoil caused by changing assignment plans could hurt the district's efforts to get voter approval for a possible school construction bond in 2013.

"What they did was add a great degree of concern and uncertainty in the community at a time when we are preparing for a bond issue," he said.

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/06/20/2150093/change-in-wake-student-assignment.html#storylink=cpy>

<http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-education-partnership-extremely-disappointed-in-wake-county-school-boards-student-assign>

Wake Education Partnership "extremely disappointed" in Wake County school board's student assignment decision

Submitted by KeungHui on 06/20/2012 - 14:28

Tags: WakeEd | Debra Goldman | Keith Sutton | Kevin Hill | Michael Alves | reassignment | Steve Parrott | Wake Education Partnership

The Wake Education Partnership is, to put it mildly, not happy with the Wake County school board's decision to change direction on the student assignment plan.

In a statement issued this afternoon, Steve Parrott, president of the WEP, said they were "extremely disappointed in the decision-making process used by the school board and frustrated by the absence of a collaborative approach." The WEP was heavily involved in the new choice plan, working directly with Michael Alves.

As for the board meeting Tuesday, Parrott writes that "late-night, partisan debate is not how a world-class organization would conduct its strategic work and is not representative of the skills and behaviors demanded from our students for college and career success."

Parrott also includes this document that was given to staff, board chairman Kevin Hill and board vice chairman Keith Sutton in April on how to modify the choice plan for year two. Board member Debra Goldman complained Tuesday that the rest of the board hadn't been made aware of that document until that day.

Here's the statement:

From: Steve Parrott, Wake Education Partnership President

Re: Wake student assignment plan

After much debate, the Wake County Board of Education voted 5-4 last night to provide a new directive to Superintendent Tony Tata and his staff regarding student assignment.

Wake Education Partnership is extremely disappointed in the decision-making process used by the school board and frustrated by the absence of a collaborative approach.

As an organization supported by the businesses community, we are keenly aware that late-night, partisan debate is not how a world-class organization would conduct its strategic work and is not representative of the skills and behaviors demanded from our students for college and career success.

The goals of the new directive – student achievement, proximity and stability – should be applauded. Those goals are identical to an assignment plan suggested to the district 18 months ago by the Partnership – a plan we remained committed to in an effort to bring the community together.

Our efforts have included making recommendations as recently as April on needed improvements in the school choice plan to address parental concerns and the risk of creating high-needs schools. (See attached)

Based on our work during the past two years evaluating school choice and base school assignment models, it is unclear to us how the school district staff can be expected to meet the board's directive by September. Reaching the stated goals while moving from a choice assignment model to one based upon street addresses would be an extremely complex task even under ideal conditions. The current approach leaves us worried about how parents, educators, businesses and the community in general will view the coming debate.

The Partnership has invested countless hours and business resources in our schools the past 30 years and we will continue to work with the district to improve public education. But our school board and community must move forward together in pursuit of these improvements. Our students deserve nothing less.

Steve Parrott

President, Wake Education Partnership

<http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/greater-raleigh-chamber-of-commerce-disappointed-in-wake-county-school-boards-student-assignm>

Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce "disappointed" in Wake County school board's student assignment vote

Submitted by KeungHui on 06/20/2012 - 19:50

Tags: WakeEd | Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce | Harvey Schmitt | Michael Alves | reassignment

The Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce is also "disappointed" today with the Wake County school board's change in direction on student assignment.

In an email this afternoon to the group's members, Chamber CEO Harvey Schmitt writes how he unsuccessfully tried to dissuade the board from passing the directive. In that email, Schmitt told board members "we are concerned that too much time spent on options that further divide the community or add additional anxiety and unknowns to the assignment process is not good for parents."

"Additionally, we are very concerned that continued examination of an unknown number of options will erode confidence in the direction of the WCPSS and in turn impact our ability to help you gain the financial support our students deserve," Schmitt continues.

In today's email, Schmitt tells chamber members that "based on our research we believe that an address based approach advocated in the directive will require mandatory assignment to fill schools."

The Chamber was a big player in the choice plan, having been the one who paid Michael Alves to come to Raleigh.

Here is today's email from Schmitt, which has the email to the board at the bottom:

From: Schmitt, Harvey <HSchmitt@raleighchamber.org>

Date: Wed, Jun 20, 2012 at 5:29 PM

Subject: Student Assignment Update

To:

Dear Chamber Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, Government Affairs Department Board, and Education Committee members:

As you may know, the Wake County Board of Education (BOE) voted last night to begin exploring a new student assignment plan for the 2013-14 school year. In a motion passed 5-4, the BOE directed staff to begin researching student assignment plans that creates address based school assignments while promoting student achievement, proximity and stability. The proposal should also contain targets for academic performance and socioeconomic status. Staff must bring an assignment proposal to the BOE in September 2012.

The long and oftentimes heated discussion brought up numerous notable points, many of which remain unaddressed:

- Community unrest and uncertainty
- Need for additional capacity
- Lack of data for choice plan effectiveness
- Need for more focus on achievement
- Costs and staff resources
- Stability and sustainability

Earlier in the evening, most of the 25 speakers during the public comment section addressed the assignment issue. The crowd was mixed with supporters of the choice plan and supporters of a new base plan.

Prior to the meeting we shared with the Board our concerns about reopening this discussion without giving the current plan an opportunity to be thoroughly evaluated and creating new community uncertainty. Based on our research we believe that an address based approach advocated in the directive will require mandatory assignment to fill schools. As you will recall this was a major sticking point under the old plan as parents were concerned about stability and about arbitrary assignments. With a sizeable majority of parents satisfied with the current choice plan we anticipate a change will create disruption among a new group of stakeholders. The problem remains inadequate school capacity, an issue to be discussed in the months ahead as we look at school construction bond in 2013.

While very disappointed in this recent action by the Board of Education the Chamber and Wake Education Partnership remain engaged in this discussion and seeking the best solution for our community going forward.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the issue in further detail, feel free to contact Drew Moretz (919-664-7061) or Emily Atkinson (919-664-7023).

Today's Articles:

Wake County School Board Votes to Pursue Diversity Based Assignment Plan

Wake School Board Votes to Change Student Assignment Plan

Wake Votes to Revise Assignment Plan - Again

Wake School Board Changes Assignment Plan Again, Also Adjust Budget

E-mail to the BOE

Good afternoon!

Today you have on your agenda a "directive to staff" to develop a 3 year assignment plan that includes base schools. We share your interest in building an assignment system that is parent friendly and focused on student achievement. We are however disappointed that we are again reopening the assignment discussion.

When we invested 6 months fashioning a Wake School Choice proposal presented to the Board of Education in February of 2011, we spent considerable time in exploring the potential for base schools. Our findings were that a base school assignment plan will require mandatory reassignments to populate new schools and fill empty seats in the county. We found no pathway to stability in assignment with base schools.

It is unclear to us how a "home-address" mandatory assignment plan to a school within "a proximate distance" of a student's home address will provide stability and avoid re-assignments in the face of continued enrollment growth. It is also unclear to us how such a plan would promote socioeconomic diversity and avoid racial isolation. And, it is unclear why the directive does not include "choice" except for magnet and special theme schools. Will students be mandatorily assigned to a year-round school? Will students be allowed to voluntarily transfer to another school? Will mandatory assignment simulations be conducted and assessed against the results of the choice-plan before the new plan is adopted?

We, like you, know that there are voices of concern over the lack of capacity in certain parts of the county that limit your ability to give parents their first choice. We anticipated that there would be 15% of parents who could not get into their first or second choice and your work far exceeded our projections. We also know that capacity issues have driven mandatory assignments in previous years forcing parents to accept assignment decisions determined by the System. WCPSS has capacity challenges and the underlying question is whether the parents can make the best choice surrounding the WCPSS's capacity issues or WCPSS? Our belief is that parental choice was the very best way to handle the challenge while we as a community work to build additional capacity.

We respect your interest in a thorough review of alternatives that would make the WCPSS more parent and newcomer friendly. We are concerned that too much time spent on options that further divide the community or add additional anxiety and unknowns to the assignment process is not good for parents. Additionally, we are very concerned that continued examination of an unknown number of options will erode confidence in the direction of the WCPSS and in turn impact our ability to help you gain the financial support our students deserve.

If you do proceed with this directive, please do so quickly so our county can move to closure on this issue and focus on student achievement and additional investment in WCPSS.

Harvey Schmitt

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/greater-raleigh-chamber-of-commerce-disappointed-in-wake-county-school-boards-student-assignm#storylink=cpy>

From: Calla Wright <ccaac_aacca@yahoo.com>

Subject:
[CoalitionofConcernedCitizensforAfricanAmericanChildren] Fw: May Meeting Notes, YOUR HELP NEEDED

Date: May 20, 2012 4:25:20 PM EDT

To:
coalitionofconcernedcitizensforafricanamericanchildren@yahoo.com

Cc: parentsfordiversity@yahoo.com

--- On Sat, 5/19/12, yevonne brannon <ybrannon@gmail.com> wrote:

From: yevonne brannon <ybrannon@gmail.com>
Subject: May Meeting Notes, YOUR HELP NEEDED
To:
Date: Saturday, May 19, 2012, 11:11 AM

I am very sorry that you missed our meeting on Tuesday. Your help is needed!!

Here are the meeting notes. Please review and let us know how you can help. ACTIVATE your friends to join you! It is very important NOT to stand down in the month of June!! We still have many opportunities to make a difference! Some of the critical decisions facing the board in June---from the magnet study results, the results of round one and two of assignment plan, to voting on the budget, and directives needed NOW for the 2013 Student assignment plan—let's make sure we have a strong voice at the June 5 and June 19 board meetings.

Work to DO:

1. **JUNE 5 Board Meeting:** We are going ALL out to get a lot of speakers at this meeting. We are still working to get the board to at least direct the staff for the 2013 assignment PLAN. We need everyone to show up and speak. We can help you with speeches. PLEASE talk to Amy W and Lynn and coordinate this effort. Here's the bottom line: June 5 will be the last board meeting before school is out. We need to let the BOE know how well they did this school year!! GIVE them their Grade for the school year, did they pass?? Did they make appropriate progress in a year? Come on, this could be fun!!!! (other topics include the budget, the transportation mess, the horrid behavior of the feeble four, the horrid CHOICE plan in summary, the need for NEW PLAN directive for staff to start working on now!)

2. Research:

1) Amy Lee is working on the update on Round Two of the student assignment results. Patty is working on the web site update and on various fact sheets. Please contact Patty if you can help with the fact sheets.

2) Call/email Amy Lee and Sharon if you can help with the IMPACT of the Choice Plan on our schools. This is critical research and will help us in other legal actions.

3. Letters to the Editor: Please consider drafting a ton of LTES right away on the following three topics:

1) Lack of transportation for those assigned without transportation. This is just as wrong as the Unassigned. If you were an unassigned, then you will especially understand this issue. Use the I contact today to draft a short LTE.

2) Let's find a better way: NEED a lot of push as the next school board meeting (JUNE 5) to MAKE A NEW PLAN for 2013. Start by getting a lot of LTES on asking for a directive that stops using the CHOICE proximity model and starts using a RESIDENCEY based assignment plan. We need to set the stage for the June 5 meeting with LTES. If you draft, send to Patty who will edit and

give to Amy W and Lynn to get published.

3) VALUE of magnet schools. Clearly, magnet schools are under attack. PLEASE take the survey and write an LTE supporting the many important objectives of the magnet program. See I contact you received for points to make.

4. TAKE THE SURVEY on Magnets:

1) Yes, this is not appropriate to have a thrown together –shallow survey—only online!! But we need to make sure it is balanced in the responses. Please get your pta to print copies or your church/synagogue and get those mailed in to central office.

2) Make sure you add in the comments how unfair and hasty this approach to magnet reviews is and how it is not ethical to continue to attack one of our best options at attempting to keep our schools well utilized and balanced.

5. Let's Find a Better way.org : Please keep putting in your stories here—this is our way to document the tragedy of the Choice Plan. Let your contacts know of this web site.

September 29, 2012 FORUM: We are planning a statewide forum for this date. Working title: Protecting the Public in Public Education, or Public Education is the Better Way or something positive but urgent about how we need to fight against the attacks on Public Education (lack of funding, charter schools, vouchers/tax credits for private schools, revitalization of schools services, the reformers etc.) If you have suggestions for focus of workshop, speakers etc. please let Patty or me know ASAP. We have started a planning committee---are you interested in helping? This will be done with GSNC (now Public Education First).

6. UPDATES:

Great Schools in NC has changed to a new name due to issues with domain names/searches etc. We will now be called Public Education First. We have new web site, Public Education First.org

More details later. We will have work to do in changing out our current web and face book page. We are still seeking funding. We had a great one day retreat this week and hope to see more

progress on this statewide effort soon. If you want to work on this project, let me know. Also, please nominate names or organizations of folks across the state who should be involved in this coalition of individuals and groups to advocate for public education. Here is revised draft of the GSNC=PEF mission:
Public Education First mobilizes citizens to advocate for a system of high-quality, equitable, and diverse public schools for all North Carolina students.

Lots of work to do, let me know how you can be a part of our important work.

Peace and love, Y

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See underlined text in article.

<http://www.indyweek.com/citizen/archives/2012/01/10/wake-school-board-go-or-no-go-on-tata-assignment-plan>

Wake school board: Go, or no-go on Tata assignment plan?

Posted by Bob Geary on Tue, Jan 10, 2012 at 7:30 AM

Well, fellow Wake County citizens, we're down to it on Tony Tata's student assignment plan, a controlled-choice plan with no base assignments for students:

Is it a go, or a no-go, for the 2012-13 school year?

The new school board, when it meets today, can:

- 1) retain the plan as is;
- 2) retain it, but with one or two fundamental and easily executed changes that would improve it greatly while still allowing it to go ahead for 2012-13;
- 3) delay it, either for a year or indefinitely, so that confusion would reign as to whether it would still be used next year or any year;
- 4) scrap it and muddle through for 2012-13 while searching for a different solution for 2013-14 *et. seq.*
- 5) delay a decision — but remember, the plan was adopted in October by the old (i.e., the Republican-majority) school board, and it remains in place unless some other action is taken.

Under the plan as it exists, parents have already applied for magnet school seats. The choice process for all other schools (Round 1 of two scheduled rounds) begins January 17.

After the new school board's work session on the plan last week, I concluded that the likely outcome was No. 2. Since then, the Great Schools in Wake group has come out for delay, ripping the plan as incomplete and a ploy to obscure the important issues of school assignment in a fog of marketing double talk. GSIW's members are dedicated and smart. One, Susan Evans, is now on the board. Evans was elected in October with Jim Martin and Christine Kushner, who are attentive to GSIW if not officially aligned with it. In short, GSIW's critique will be taken very seriously.

The GSIW position paper is here. The press release is here.

Raleigh attorney Neil Reimann issued a brief rebuttal on his authoritative Wake Reassignment blog. It's definitely worth a read. (I should note, Reimann is a neighbor of mine in Cameron Park, and I'd love to take credit for his work on this subject over the last two years, but he's always way ahead of me.)

Delaying the plan would be a mistake, Reimann says:

While I agree with some critics that there are unanswered questions, I don't think many of these remaining questions can be answered before the plan is implemented. It is a risk of a choice plan that choice implies some uncertainty.

I also agree with the critics that the plan is incomplete — left that way intentionally by the old Republican majority. But we now have a new pro-schools majority. (I am not going to give in to the fiction that this group of non-politicians, elected in a non-partisan election, should be called "Democratic" just because they are registered Democrats ... and four of the five people they defeated were, indeed, Republican politicians.)

The new board majority has the power to complete the plan with one or the other (or both) of two simple amendments designed to assure diverse schools and avoid the creation of high-poverty schools.

One amendment would promote achievement — the diversity factor — above proximity in the process for allocating seats in schools where the demand exceeds the supply. The other amendment would set aside seats in high-achieving schools so that kids from low-income areas who apply to that school are assured of acceptance.

Both changes would improve the plan in terms of its outcomes for kids from low-income neighborhoods who, because there isn't room for all of them in nearby magnet schools — they are "structurally displaced," as Tata puts it, by the fact that about half the seats in their schools are reserved for magnet applicants — must attend some other school.

The idea behind having set-asides and of promoting achievement in the allocation process is the same: Kids who are structurally displaced should be favored in the choice process, not given the leftovers — that is, the seats in schools that nobody else wanted.

With the amendments, the plan would still be imperfect. What plan isn't? The only perfect plan, as board member Chris Malone said last week, is the one that gives every parent a choice, "that choice being what they wanted all along."

With limited capacity and funds, no such perfection is in reach.

If the amendments are adopted, will the plan be successful over time?

I don't know the answer to that question. Tell me whether the voters will pass a critically needed, very big school bond issue in the next two years ... and whether the Wake Commissioners will increase funding for the schools (and, indeed, whether the General Assembly will also) ... and I'd be willing to take a shot at it.

The Tata plan — or any controlled-choice plan — depends for its success on having some slack capacity in the school system; if too many schools are full, where's the choice?

Success also depends on having sufficient funds to intervene quickly when schools are under-selected or, freighted with too many under-achieving students, get labeled as "failing" schools. A failed school won't be selected by anyone with a (real) choice who's paying attention. Schools cannot be allowed to fail.

That said, I think the Tata plan will hold for a year or two at the least. There isn't much slack capacity in the school system now — without 1,000 pre-fab classroom trailers, there wouldn't be any — but the pell-mell pace of growth in Wake County has slowed since the recession, and the \$970 million bond issue from 2006 has helped immensely. So there's a window of time to give the plan a tryout.

The alternative, to junk it or put it off pending months of further wrangling and confusion, strikes me as wrong substantively and a terrible decision for this new school board to make politically.

I know Kevin Hill hates it when anyone (I include myself) suggests that he view things in political terms. But I'm using that word today, after the election, not to foretell what will get anyone re-elected (or elected). Rather, I mean political in the sense of what's good for the body politic — the public.

The public's been through hell on this issue for two years. A consensus has formed around a compromise approach that may or may not be the long-term answer, but it is the only answer on the table as we speak. Sensible people say it's an approach worth trying. Tata has staked his reputation on it, so unless the new board wants him gone — and contrary to Republican assertions, that's not the case — a meeting of the minds is in order.

To approve the plan now, with changes, is not to preclude further changes for 2013-14 and beyond — changes to feeder patterns, to priorities in the choice process, to the establishment or dis-establishment of new STEM schools, or leadership academies, or single-sex academies or even (dare I say it?) charter schools operated under the school board's aegis.

The plan has undoubted impact on magnet schools. At the work session last week, it was agreed the magnet schools must be protected and the plan, if adopted, should be analyzed to assure that it works in harmony with the magnet schools, not at cross-purposes with them.

Tata's plan may not be what the new school board would've come with on its own given a two-year head start. It may not be what it will come up with over the next four years. But throwing it out with little or no time left to fashion an alternative for the 2012-13 school year would be justifiable only if disaster was impending. And it isn't.

Yevonne Brannon urging people to tell the Wake County school board to develop a new student assignment plan for 2013

Submitted by KeungHui on 05/21/2012 - 13:00

Tags: WakeEd | Allison Backhouse | Amy Womble | Calla Wright | Christine Kushner | Coalition of Concerned Citizens for African American Children | diversity | Great Schools in Wake Coalition | Lynn Edmonds | magnet schools | Patty Williams | reassignment | Susan Evans | Yevonne Brannon

Yevonne Brannon, chairwoman of the Great Schools in Wake Coalition, is mobilizing people to participate in the magnet school survey and to urge the Wake County school board to scrap the new student assignment plan.

In a Sunday blog post, Allison Backhouse posts a copy of a Saturday email that she obtained in which Brannon writes that they "NEED a lot of push as the next school board meeting (JUNE 5) to MAKE A NEW PLAN for 2013." Brannon suggests writing "a lot of" letters to the editor "asking for a directive that stops using the CHOICE proximity model and starts using a RESIDENCEY based assignment plan."

Brannon lists the names of other Great Schools leaders, Patty Williams, Amy Womble and Lynn Edmonds, whom she says can help edit the letters and try to get them published.

Brannon writes that the letters will "set the stage for the June 5 meeting."

On June 5, Brannon writes that "we are going ALL out to get a lot of speakers at this meeting.

"We are still working to get the board to at least direct the staff for the 2013 assignment PLAN," Brannon writes. "We need everyone to show up and speak. We can help you with speeches. PLEASE talk to Amy W and Lynn and coordinate this effort."

Brannon also takes a shot presumably, at the four Republican school board members, when she writes about "the horrid behavior of the feeble four."

Brannon also criticizes the magnet survey while urging magnet supporters to participate.

"Yes, this is not appropriate to have a thrown together –shallow survey—only online!!," Brannon writes. "But we need to make sure it is balanced in the responses. Please get your pta to print copies or your church/synagogue and get those mailed in to central office.

Make sure you add in the comments how unfair and hasty this approach to magnet reviews is and how it is not ethical to continue to attack one of our best options at attempting to keep our schools well utilized and balanced."

Backhouse uses the email to question whether school board members Susan Evans and Christine Kushner have cut their ties to Great Schools. Backhouse asks "So, how does GSIW already know what is going to happen at the June 5th Board meeting?"

"Since when is there a 2013 assignment plan?" Backhouse writes. "Does this mean that the Board majority really is going to completely ignore the cries from parents for a neighborhood school (and choice and stability and predictability) and move back to node-based assignments because that's what GSIW wants? (See my last post.)

Sounds to me like there's been some improper discussions going on. How else would Brannon know how to "set the stage" for the next Board meeting?"

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/yevasive-brannon-urging-people-to-tell-the-wake-county-school-board-to-develop-a-new-student-a#storylink=cpy>

<http://www.indyweek.com/citizen/archives/2012/01/10/wake-school-board-go-or-no-go-on-tata-assignment-plan>

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Posted by [Bob Geary](#) on Tue, Jan 10, 2012 at 7:30 AM

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<http://www.indyweek.com/citizen/archives/2011/06/10/in-tata-we-trust-thoughts-on-a-friday-re-blue-vs-green>

In Tata we trust? Thoughts on a Friday re: Blue vs. Green

Posted by Bob Geary on Fri, Jun 10, 2011 at 2:36 PM



So now to the question of Blue vs. Green: Which will be better in terms of maintaining a healthy mix (aka, diversity) of students in every school?

Which will better at staving off the creation of high-poverty schools in low-income neighborhoods, in particular the low-income neighborhoods of Raleigh?

At first blush, the answer is as Jim Martin, a member of the Great Schools in Wake (GSIW) coalition, said at the public forum at Athens Drive HS last week: Either plan could work well if executed well and given sufficient resources.

If you've read this far, I'd assume you know what the Blue and Green plans are, at least in outline form. If not, GSIW has a short description in its newsletter. For more detail, go to the Wake County Public School System's special website.

GSIW, in a statement last week, analyzed both plans and concluded, based on what we know now, that the Green plan "offers the best chance to get it right." remainder of article on line.

Wake County school board member Debra Goldman accusing Susan Evans and Christine Kushner of violating their oaths

Submitted by KeungHui on 02/22/2012 - 14:57

Tags: WakeEd | Anthony Tata | Bill LuMaye | Christine Kushner | Code of Ethics | Debra Goldman | Great Schools in Wake Coalition | Susan Evans | Tony Tata | WPTF

Wake County school board member Debra Goldman is defending Superintendent Tony Tata and accusing board members Susan Evans and Christine Kushner of having violated their oaths.

In an interview Tuesday on the Bill LuMaye Show on WPTF, Goldman tell the conservative talk show host that Tata was "completely correct here" in emailing Evans and Kushner because "they've refused to disaffiliate from special-interest groups," namely the the Great Schools in Wake Coalition.

Goldman points to Evans and Kushner accepting the award last month for GSIW and attending the recent GSIW student assignment forum to dispute their statements that they're not involved with the group. She said it's "highly inappropriate to be out there championing a fringe group like this."

"I've seen candidates with t-shirts that thank Great Schools in Wake along with others," Goldman said. "So when we're talking about them saying they're no longer affiliated, to me it's like a wink, wink, nod, nod kind of a thing because they are. They're coming out, they're speaking out on behalf of this group. This group continues to back them. There is a strong allegiance."

Goldman said she feels Evans and Kushner's involvement with GSIW has been "a violation of this oath," referring to the school board's code of ethics. The code says board members should "render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups."

Goldman has ended her previous refusal to talk with the media now that she's running for state auditor.

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-county-school-board-member-debra-goldman-accusing-susan-evans-and-christine-kushner-of-v#storylink=cpy#storylink=cpy>

Review of Wake school assignment plan is likely

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/11/21/1660619/school-choice-plan-on-agenda.html#storylink=cpy> BY T. KEUNG HUI AND THOMAS GOLDSMITH - khui@newsobserver.com or tgoldsmith@newsobserver.com

BY T. KEUNG HUI AND THOMAS GOLDSMITH The News and Observer

Tags: Wake County schools | school board | school assignment | Tony Tata | diversity

The new majority of Democrats on the Wake County school board say they will begin their reign with an in-depth look at the system's recently passed, choice-based student assignment plan.

If incumbent Democrat Kevin Hill gets his way, the nine-member board will hold a meeting to tackle the assignment plan on Dec. 7, the day after the new majority is sworn in. The plan that Superintendent Tony Tata and other staffers spent months crafting represents a fundamental shift from the diversity-based attendance zones the county has used for more than three decades.

Under that plan, adopted by the outgoing Republican-majority board last month, parents will begin making their school choices for the 2012-13 school year in January. Members of the new majority say they want to do a thorough review of the plan to address any issues that may have been overlooked and to make sure that it does enough to help low-achieving students.

"The assignment plan is very time-sensitive," Hill said. "We'll be into the December holidays, and time is short. I requested that we get our sleeves rolled up and get to work."

Some among the new majority believe that the school system should make use of more creative approaches and an infusion of resources to deal with the achievement problem.

"If we want to be a national leader in education, we have to have the courage and the commitment to provide educational resources for all students," said newly elected member Jim Martin. "It's not going to be one-size-fits-all."

Questions about the future of the assignment plan have escalated since Democrats won all five school board seats on the November ballot, reversing the 5-4 Republican majority.

Hill said he's not out to do a wholesale revision of the new plan. But he said he wants to schedule a board work session for Dec. 7 because he's not meeting as a group with the new majority, which includes three newly elected members, before Dec. 6.

Members of the new majority say they want to avoid the questions that dogged the Republican board majority when members met in 2009 before being sworn in. While the meeting was not illegal, critics accused Republicans of trying to skirt the N.C. Open Meetings Law by meeting as a group without advance notice to agree on the items they presented at their first board meeting.

"We will let the community know about the meetings well in advance," Martin said. "There will be no surprises."

Meanwhile, the Wake system has embarked on what planners have called the vitally important effort of educating parents about the complex choice plan. Families are guaranteed a seat at the school that their students attend now, but also will get a list of as many as eight other options.

More than 300 people packed into the gym/cafeteria at Durant Road Elementary last week, listening intently as Wake County schools staffers presented a parent-friendly lesson on the plan. Growth and planning director Laura Evans used a Powerpoint projection and some folksy wisdom to answer dozens of parents' questions on the plan.

Kim Freeman, who has a third-grader at Durant Road Elementary and a seventh-grader at Durant Road Middle, came away relieved after having her questions answered about her older son.

"I know that I'm locked in; I don't have to change schools if I don't want to," Freeman said. "When he gets to high school and wants to change his high school, I will get first priority because it's closer." Freeman liked the feature of the plan that gives students a feeder pattern to follow through elementary, middle and high schools.

Elisabeth Galanos' situation was different.

"I have seventh- and eighth-graders in the magnet program, but I don't like the magnet high school choice," Galanos said. "If I used choice and choose another high school that's closer, do I get in? What happens?"

Her kids have been given Southeast Raleigh High School as their magnet option.

"I drive my kids to school, and I don't want to drive that far," she said

Parent Mustafa Dahnoun is taking the opportunity of the new plan to move his son into Wake schools at ninth grade.

I think it's going to be a good thing," Dahnoun said. "Obviously you're not going be able to satisfy everyone, but it's a good thing."

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/11/21/1660619/school-choice-plan-on-agenda.html#storylink=cpy>

Kevin Hill asking for Dec. 7 work session on student assignment

Submitted by KeungHui on 11/21/2011 - 07:00

Tags: WakeEd | Anthony Tata | Jim Martin | Keith Sutton | Kevin Hill | open meetings | reassignment | school board elections

The new Democratic majority on the Wake County school board want to work on student assignment on Day 2 instead of Day 1 of their tenure.

As noted in today's article, Democratic school board member and potential new chairman Kevin Hill has requested that a Dec. 7 work session be held on the student assignment plan. The new majority will be sworn in on Dec. 6.

"The assignment plan is very time sensitive," Hill said. "We'll be into the December holidays and time is short. I requested that we get our sleeves rolled up and get to work."

Don't look for changes on student assignment to take place Dec. 6 because Hill said the new majority wants to avoid the questions that dogged the Republican board majority when members met before taking office in 2009.

While not illegal, critics accused Republicans of trying to skirt the Open Meetings Law by meeting as a group to agree on the items they presented without advance notice at their first board meeting.

Newly elected Democratic board member Jim Martin said they want to get word out about a meeting Dec. 7 or later on that week as soon as soon as possible.

"We will let the community know about the meetings well in advance," Martin said. "There will be no surprises."

When Superintendent Tony Tata received Hill's request, he said he pointed out how under board policy only the chair or two board members can call a special meeting.

If Democratic board member Keith Sutton also asks for a Dec. 7 meeting then that would satisfy that part of policy.

"We will meet with them whenever they are ready," Tata said. "We will be there to answer their questions."

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/kevin-hill-asking-for-dec-7-work-session-on-student-assignment#storylink=cpy>

Wake County GOP school board members complain about not being told of meeting with Michael Alves

Submitted by KeungHui on 01/05/2012 - 13:29

Tags: WakeEd | Anthony Tata | Chris Malone | controlled choice | Deborah Prickett | Debra Goldman | Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce | Jim Martin | John Tedesco | Kevin Hill | Michael Alves | reassignment | Susan Evans | Wake Education Partnership

The Republican members of the Wake County school board are not happy that they weren't notified that education consultant Michael Alves was holding a private meeting with the new Democratic board members.

Word about the meeting became public during Tuesday's board work session after GOP board member Debra Goldman asked about the references that the Democratic members were making about having talked with Alves.

"Did I miss a meeting where Mr. Alves came and talked to the board?" Goldman questioned Democratic board chairman Kevin Hill.

Hill said Goldman did miss that meeting but that she had an opportunity to meet with Alves last spring. Hill said he felt it would be good to afford the new members the same opportunity to meet with Alves.

But Goldman responded there's a difference between this private meeting and Alves speaking to the now-defunct school board student assignment committee in July 2010.

"Why am I just finding this out now only because I just happen to ask this question?" Goldman said. "Who was in that meeting with Mr. Alves? Who paid for Mr. Alves to come here for that meeting?"

Fellow Republican board member John Tedesco chimed in that he would have welcomed meeting with Alves again.

Hill answered Goldman that the school board hadn't paid for Alves to come. He said he assumed that the Wake Education Partnership had done so.

The Wake Education Partnership and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce had hired Alves in September 2010 to develop a controlled-choice model whose elements would later be incorporated into the plan adopted by the board. Since then, Alves was retained by the Chamber to help advise the school system on implementation of the new plan.

GOP board member Deborah Prickett asked if the meeting took place in the same building that the board meets.

Hill answered no. When asked again where, Hill said it was in the Crossroads II Building. Tedesco quipped it was "next door."

Goldman asked again who met with Alves.

New Democratic board member Jim Martin said Hill and the new board members were present. Martin said Superintendent Tony Tata was aware of the meeting because he was copied on all the e-mails.

Hill said that he and Tata had talked about the meeting after the Wake Education Partnership had extended an invitation to Hill to have Alves meet with the new board members.

"I would be happy to explain more to you, but it's not germane to this meeting," Hill said to Goldman.

That drew a reaction from the Republicans.

"Actually it's a little bit germane because I feel like there's board members who've had an opportunity to have one-on-one with Mr. Alves that other than at a public student assignment committee meeting with a zillion people and cameras and really high temperatures of angry folks," Goldman said. "I would love to ask him some really detailed questions about some of this and I've not been afforded that opportunity as a veteran board member.

I think it's great that the new members were given that opportunity, but I don't think it's transparent by any stretch that the rest of the board was not even notified of this, that the public didn't know, that I'm finding out here in the middle of a work session.

Quite frankly the work session is questionable because the way it was not voted on in a public meeting, which is in violation of policy 1300. But we're here at this work session trying to work together on all of this and I feel like a bomb was just dropped that I happened to pick up just because I thought oh why is everyone quoting Mr. Alves like they've had these one-on-one conversations when the rest of us have been precluded from that opportunity."

Hill told Goldman that he can give her Alves' phone number and e-mail address because he said he'd be happy to talk with people.

"With all due respects Debra, you knew about this before because it's been in e-mails that have going around this board," Martin said.

"Emails that have been going around about what meeting with Mr. Alves, Jim?" Goldman responded. "So no I didn't know about it."

"Yes I am sure we can go back and find record of it," Martin responded. "Not ahead of time but since the time of the discussion."

Martin's response drew a laugh from the audience.

"Ahead of time is when it's germane, not after the fact," responded Republican board member Chris Malone.

Martin said the meeting was held before the new members were sworn in. He said the WEP apparently made the offer to Hill so that the new members could "get up to speed on what Mr. Alves' perspectives were."

"I was under the impression that you all had that opportunity (to meet with him before)," Martin said. "If not, you absolutely should have that opportunity to have discussions with him."

"I guess the Wake Education Partnership is playing favorites," Goldman said.

Hill responded that when Alves was here for the day that the board members had plenty of opportunities" to chat with him one-on-one outside the public eye.

Goldman replied that it was back in 2010.

"Feel free to contact him, but I can tell you there wasn't any earth-shattering discussions that took place with Mr. Alves from my perspective," said new Democratic board member Susan Evans. "It didn't clarify anything for me that I didn't know before. It didn't make me more comfortable with things that I wasn't comfortable with or less comfortable. It just was very basic information."

Following this lengthy discussion, the board got back to the work session agenda. But Tedesco and Goldman had a few parting shots on the topic.

"Holding separate meetings with some of the board doesn't help in your efforts to build a board of nine," Tedesco said to Hill.

"Now I'm wondering how many other meetings I've missed," Goldman added.

The Democratic board members responded no.

Goldman said she'll have to "dissect everything that's being said now" to find out if other meetings were held without her knowledge. She said what happened was "very disappointing."

All this discussion came amid the backdrop in which the former Republican majority was accused of being secretive. The new Democratic majority said they'd be more transparent.

UPDATE

CLARIFIED THAT IT'S THE GREATER RALEIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT HAS RETAINED ALVES TO HELP WAKE WITH THE PLAN

KEVIN HILL AND JIM MARTIN NOW SAY THAT THE MEETING WITH ALVES TOOK PLACE DEC. 7, THE DAY AFTER THE NEW MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN.

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-county-gop-school-board-members-complain-about-not-being-told-of-meeting-with-michael-al#storylink=cpy>

Raising more questions about Michael Alves' unannounced meeting with new Wake County school board members

Submitted by KeungHui on 01/13/2012 - 10:00

Tags: WakeEd | AdvancED | Anthony Tata | Anthony Tata. John Tedesco | Chris Malone | Christine Kushner | David Neter | Deborah Prickett | Debra Goldman | Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce | Harvey Schmitt | James Overman | Jim Martin | Keith Sutton | Kevin Hill | magnet schools | Michael Alves | reassignment | redistricting | Steve Parrott | Susan Evans | Terry Stoops | Wake Education Partnership

The issue of Michael Alves' unannounced private meeting with the new Democratic members of the Wake County school board won't seem to go away.

The issue was revisited with some heated comments during Tuesday's board meeting. The discussion, more of which is detailed later in the post, shows the continuing wariness between the Republican and Democratic members.

More recently, Terry Stoops, director of education studies for the conservative John Locke Foundation, brought up the issue in a Thursday blog post.

Stoops said the Greater Raleigh of Commerce and the Wake Education Partnership, the groups that sponsored the meeting, deserve some of the blame for what happened.

"Why should the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and the Wake Education Partnership get a pass?" Stoops writes. "If you excuse the enablers, you excuse the behavior."

So, I am calling on Harvey Schmitt of the GRCC and Steve Parrott of the WEP to issue a joint apology to the taxpayers of Wake County. We're waiting."

Now returning to Tuesday's meeting, the issue came up again when Republican board member Debra Goldman, the main critic of the Dec. 7 meeting, asked about having learned that the school system will be paying to use Alves' software.

Superintendent Tony Tata said the Chamber had been paying Alves but the school system would now be doing so.

Chief Business Officer David Neter said the district used Alves' proprietary software for the online magnet application process. He said the software will again be used Jan. 17 when round one of the choice selection process for the new student assignment plan begins.

"My impression was that the only way this plan can go forward with fidelity is to use his software," said Democratic board member Christine Kushner.

James Overman, head of the student assignment task force, said they decided to use Alves' software to "make sure we were doing it right."

Neter said they "didn't want to reinvent the wheel." But he said they're looking at using other software as long-term alternatives.

Republican board member John Tedesco said they had looked at Alves' software when he was chairing the now-defunct student assignment committee. He said it was "probably the best software to use for a choice model."

Democratic board member Jim Martin joined Goldman in asking for information on how much the district is paying for the use of Alves' software.

Goldman said that she had "a few other questions" about that Dec. 7 meeting.

Goldman questioned why it wasn't communicated ahead of time to the whole board via e-mail.

Goldman also said she's repeatedly heard that Tata supported and approved the meeting. So she said she was going to put Tata "on the spot" by asking "did he support and approve that private meeting with select board members?"

Tata said Democratic board chairman Kevin Hill approached him after the Dec. 6 meeting about reserving a room the following day for the three new members. He said "there was no formal vetting."

"I felt like it was part of the orientation because they had been going through orientation, and maybe I should have stopped and involved the whole board but to me it was because we were running the new board members through orientation for many days preceding that," Tata said.

Goldman asked Tata if he knew who planned to be in the meeting and what the purpose of the meeting was.

"I think Kevin expressly said the three new board members and Michael Alves so they could get an update," Tata answered. "And again, it's probably my mistake for not involving the entire board."

"I don't think it's your mistake," Goldman said. "It's the chairman's mistake."

"But I do remember you saying you thought that was a good idea," Hill said to Tata. "No, I didn't ask permission. I made the superintendent aware that we would like to do this."

I think I said specifically because I'm not going to do this behind your back. I wanted him fully involved with what was going on and I thought it would be good for the three new board members to get up to speed and Tony said, 'Yeah, I think that would be a good idea.'"

Goldman then pressed Hill on how the meeting was arranged considering Alves lives in Massachusetts.

Hill answered that Alves was in town and getting ready to leave.

"The organization that was helping with the funding wanted to make him available to the new board members to get them up to speed," Hill said.

The request evidently came before the Dec. 6 meeting because Hill responded that he told the group he couldn't make any commitments. But after being elected chairman on Dec. 6, he said he was able to do so.

"I don't think you need to second guess it," Hill said. "I think it was part of orientation, and I was in a position to make that commitment and I did. I take full responsibility for that and I've corrected the media and others.

It was not a secret meeting. And I think some meetings are best held in small meetings like the board did, which you participated in many times during the summer when we met with the student assignment team in groups of three. It's been practice."

"I think the redistricting was held much the same way," added Democratic school board member Susan Evans.

"But the difference is the whole board was aware of it," Goldman responded.

"And the whole board was involved," added Republican board member Deborah Prickett.

"I think we're getting in the weeds," Evans said.

"Is this part of the written agenda?" asked Democratic school board vice chairman Keith Sutton.

"No, but it has relevancy," Goldman responded.

"We need to get this cleared up," Prickett added.

Republican board member Chris Malone said he doesn't have a problem with the new members meeting with Alves, which Goldman said she agreed with as well. But Malone said that there should have been notification to the whole board ahead of time, especially in light of the concerns that AdvancED raised in its accreditation report about board governance.

"Perhaps that night you should have said it at the board meeting," Malone said.

"With all due respect, were you guys notified of the probably 20-something hours we spent in orientation?" Martin responded loudly.

"We were," Tedesco said. "That's what I was going to say. I do appreciate Kevin thinking it was orientation, but we did get schedules of all the orientation meetings. Plus the additional materials that you were presented with at orientation, we were all given copies of.

This was the one meeting on your orientation agenda with materials for the orientation that we were not copied on. So that's what the concern is."

Goldman added that "the other piece that's a little bit disturbing" was that Hill was contacted about the meeting before he was elected chairman.

"You said you were asked about setting it up beforehand but you were not the chair," Goldman said. "So I guess was there a collusion or a polling of potential board members of who this is who we're electing as chair and this is what we're doing so it's all planned out ahead and other people knew that to contact you and say, 'Hey when you're chair set this up?'"

"No I was pretty much following what I read Mr. Tedesco said in the paper that he thought I was probably going to be chair," Hill responded, drawing a laugh from Tedesco and other board members.

"There was no collusion," Sutton said. "Ms. Goldman, would you like Mr. Alves' phone number?"

Goldman answered that she and Kushner had briefly met with Alves on Jan. 6. She said that's where she learned Wake was using Alves' software. She said Alves said "some really interesting things" that she wished the entire board had heard.

Tata interjected that Alves had been in town last month for implementation of the magnet selection process.

"I could have done a better job after Kevin talked with me in making sure everybody understood this meeting was taking place," Tata added.

"Okay then so apology accepted," Sutton said to end the discussion. "You've been brought up to speed. The new board members have been brought up to speed. Is there anyone else who needs to be brought up to speed?"

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/raising-more-questions-about-michael-alves-unannounced-meeting-with-new-wake-county-school-bo#storylink=cpy#storylink=cpy>

Wake County school board member Debra Goldman on becoming the board "watchdog"

Submitted by KeungHui on 01/20/2012 - 10:00

Tags: WakeEd | AdvancED | Ann Majestic | Bob Geary | Deborah Prickett | Debra Goldman | Jim Martin | John Tedesco | Kevin Hill | Michael Alves | open meetings | Paul Coble | reassignment | school board | Wake County Commissioners

Wake County school board member Debra Goldman says she's taking on the role of board "watchdog."

During last week's board meeting, Goldman, a Republican, repeatedly raised concerns about the way she felt the new Democratic board majority was operating. She accused the board of committing several policy violations and not passing the "smell test" on email discussions.

"You've referred to me as the watchdog and I will pick up that mantle and go forward with it," Goldman said during the meeting.

Goldman's actions last week mirror similar behavior she showed at the Jan. 3 work session.

It started off last week with Democratic board chairman Kevin Hill reporting back on plans to resume the meetings that used to be held between the leadership of the school board and county commissioners.

Harkening back to the unannounced Dec. 7 meeting that the new Democratic board members had with Michael Alves, Goldman said she had a "discomfort" about just the leadership of both boards meeting. She suggested that they have meetings of the full boards.

Hill said he would "share Goldman's discomfort" with Paul Coble, chairman of the board of commissioners.

Then when the board began talking about setting board meeting schedules, Goldman questioned whether it was an "arbitrary decision" by Hill to go back to allowing speakers to have three minutes during public comment. She said the change should have been approved by the full board.

Goldman later brought up during the work session that she "had a few policy issues she's like to bring up."

Goldman proceeded to charge that the board had violated Policy 1300 in not having a vote to schedule the Jan. 3 work session on student assignment. Then she alleged violations of several other board policies and procedures.

"It makes me very, very uncomfortable when we are doing things that are in violation, or perceived violation," Goldman said. "And if it's not really a violation and it's perceived by the public as a violation, then it needs to be addressed as well. So as a board if we are tasked with governing and we are under the watchful eye of AdvancED, then I feel very strongly if we have violations of our own policy, or again perceived violations of our own policy, then it is our obligation and duty and responsibility and legal

obligation to all of the constituents in Wake County to make sure that we are bringing that back into alignment.

I don't know what kind of sanctions there are or things that can happen, but AdvancED is watching us closely and looking for good governance and in the last two meetings I've heard from so many people in regard to this.

You've referred to me as the watchdog and I will pick up that mantle and go forward with it because these things are really, you know, I've been called a policy wonk, a watchdog whatever you want to call me, I intend to go forward auditing this process as we go and making sure we are in alignment and honoring our own board policies."

"I'm grateful," Hill responded. "I just wish you'd been that adamant the last few years."

Hill drew laughs from the crowd.

"She didn't want to take away your job," Republican board member John Tedesco said to Hill.

Later on in the work session, the board had a discussion on how to handle public records requests. Goldman asked the board to either halt the discussion so it could be discussed during the regular meeting or that everything said in the work session be repeated then.

It was Goldman, along with fellow Republican board member Deborah Prickett, who had requested that the issue be placed on the regular board meeting agenda.

Goldman kept it up during the discussion on student assignment, asking more questions about the Dec. 7 meeting with Alves.

Bob Geary noted Goldman's actions at the last two work sessions in a Tuesday online article for the liberal Independent weekly. He wrote that it helped keep the new majority from getting around to making changes in the student assignment plan.

"At their public sessions on Jan. 3 and Jan. 10, the five demonstrated little ability to control their own agenda, allowing the Republican members, especially Debra Goldman, to filibuster them to distraction with all manner of issues other than diversity," Geary wrote. "Which is not to blame Ms. Goldman.

Geary said Goldman "just generally went on about tangential issues."

"If she was trying to gum them up, she succeeded beautifully," Geary wrote.

At the beginning of the regular meeting during board member comments, Goldman again raised her concerns about whether it was appropriate for Hill instead of the whole board to change the time for speakers back to three minutes.

Goldman said her concerns didn't express her opinion on whether there should be two or three minutes. But she said she's concerned that the way it was being changed could involve a potential violation of board policy.

Noting that school board policy says speakers can have two to three minutes, board attorney Ann Majestic said it's been board practice to leave the time up to the chair.

Hill said he'd use his prerogative as chair to have three minutes that night considering how he had publicly said before he would do so. But he agreed to have the full board discuss the issue.

During the discussion at the regular meeting about handling public records requests, Goldman talked about the concerns that Democratic board member Jim Martin had raised about handling requests for board member emails.

Goldman said the level of email discussion among board members about possibly changing policy had made her "very uncomfortable," leading to it being on the agenda.

Noting that she used to sit in the audience before being elected, Goldman said she would have liked to have thought then all the board deliberation was going in front of the crowd.

"To me if I was sitting there now, I'd be rather disturbed to know the level of discourse that goes on between board members on agenda-related items, on board business through our email system," Goldman said.

Goldman said she wanted a discussion on the legal and ethical issues of board email discussions.

"Board members should show restraint when it comes to communicating about board business if it is working toward making a decision on board business," Majestic said. "Having those conversations arrive at a committed decision is contrary to the spirit of the Open Meetings Law.

On the other hand, this exchange of emails was about clarifying the system's practice and response to an email request so it was more about information exchange so I'm less uncomfortable — even though it was pretty active as you say — with that as opposed to who you're going to vote for chair, or what's your vote going to be on the student assignment plan or something like that or let me tell you why you should vote this way. That I think you should show restraint."

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-county-school-board-member-debra-goldman-on-becoming-the-board-watchdog#storylink=cpy>

http://triangle.news14.com/content/video_stories/652037/tensions-between-political-parties-rise-on-wake-school-board?ap=1&MP4

RALEIGH -- Student assignment was the main topic Tuesday in the new Wake County School Board's first work session, but the tension between board members at times overshadowed the assignment debate.

"I feel like a bomb was just dropped," said Wake School Board member Debra Goldman after learning Board Chairman Kevin Hill and the three newly-elected Democratic board members had a private meeting with education consultant Michael Alves.

Alves developed the controlled-choice student assignment model.

Hill and a couple of other board members had mentioned Alves in their discussion of the details of Wake County's new student assignment plan, prompting Goldman to ask why they were quoting him.

That's when Hill and Martin announced they, along with new members Susan Evans and Christine Kushner, had met with Alves just more than a month ago.

"Why am I just finding this out now only because I happened to ask this question?" Goldman asked Hill.

"Who was in that meeting with Mr. Alves? I would like to know. Who paid for Mr. Alves to come here for that meeting?"

Hill responded while shaking his head, "The school board did not [pay Alves.] The school system did not."

Across the table, fellow minority board member Deborah Prickett was just as shocked to learn of the meeting, asking, "[Alves] came here [to the school system's central offices]?"

The Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce hired Alves as an education consultant to help the school system design a student assignment plan.

Chamber President Harvey Schmitt told News 14 Carolina Alves was already scheduled to be in town to meet with school staff late last year. He said while Alves was here, the Chamber paid him to meet with the three new board members after they were elected, but before they were sworn in.

Schmitt said only new board members were invited to meet with Alves because the sitting board members had previously met with him, and he was just bringing the new board members up to speed on the basics of the plan.

Alves met with the School Board's Student Assignment Committee back in 2010, while the board was trying to come up with an assignment plan.

Martin and Hill pointed out Superintendent Tony Tata knew of Alves' meeting with new board members.

"I was under the impression we were being afforded something you had had an opportunity to do," Martin told Goldman.

Goldman responded their meeting with Alves was more than a year ago, when they were just starting to develop Wake County's assignment plan. She said she and other members would love to ask him more detailed questions now that they are farther along in the process.

She also mentioned sitting board members didn't have the opportunity to meet with Alves privately; theirs was an open meeting with members of the public and heavy media coverage.

“I think it's great the new board members were given that opportunity but I don't think it's transparent by any stretch that the rest of the board was not even notified of this,” Goldman said.

“Holding separate meetings with some of the board doesn't help in your efforts to build a [unified] board of nine [members],” Board member John Tedesco told Hill.

“And a board of trust,” Goldman added. “So now, I'm wondering how many other meetings I've missed,” she said with frustration.

The Board eventually decided to drop the issue and get back on-topic, discussing the student assignment plan.

Alves is still retained as a hired education consultant by the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

COMPILED BY STAFF WRITERS MATT GARFIELD, ALIANA RAMOS, T. KEUNG HUI AND JIM WISE.

COMPILED BY STAFF WRITERS MATT GARFIELD, ALIANA RAMOS, T. KEUNG HUI AND JIM WISE.

Republican members of the Wake County school board are accusing the new Democratic majority of breaking their trust by holding an unannounced private meeting with education consultant Michael Alves

The Republican board members didn't find out until this week that Democratic Chairman Kevin Hill and the three newly elected Democratic board members met last month with Alves, who developed the model that's the basis of the new student assignment plan.

"I feel like a bomb was just dropped," GOP board member Debra Goldman said.

Hill says the meeting took place Dec. 7, the day after the new members were sworn in. He said he didn't invite the GOP board members because they had the opportunity to meet with Alves when he spoke to a school board committee in July 2010.

But Goldman argued there's a difference between talking with Alves in a private meeting and at a public meeting.

Before the election, Democratic board members accused Republicans of not being transparent and not working with the minority. Hill has said he wants to unify all nine board members, but Republican John Tedesco told him Tuesday, "Holding separate meetings with some of the board doesn't help in your efforts to build a board of nine."

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/01/07/1758961/secret-meeting-riles-wake-school.html#storylink=cpy>

Wake County school board members Deborah Prickett and Debra Goldman sound off about GSIW and the public's behavior

Submitted by KeungHui on 04/10/2012 - 18:28

Tags: WakeEd | Deborah Prickett | Debra Goldman | Great Schools in Wake Coalition | Karen Carter | reassignment

Wake County school board members Deborah Prickett and Debra Goldman sounded off today about student assignment and the behavior of the public.

During her board member comments, Prickett said she felt she had to respond to today's "irresponsible" press release from "the small fringe group" Great Schools in Wake Coalition. She argued that GSIW's "Let's Find a Better Way" campaign failed to acknowledge that a catalyst for the new student assignment plan was how parents were fed up with the "archaic node assignment system."

"We've gone from a controlling do as I say system to families having a choice," Prickett said.

During her comments, Goldman said she wanted to address the "disrespectful" tenor of speakers at the last school board meeting. She asked board chairman Kevin Hill to exercise more control to make sure speakers adhere to the comment policy.

Goldman said she also wanted to make sure the board wasn't spending it's time changing the directives made over the past few years. She said it was causing parents to be confused about the direction of the school system.

UPDATE

Karen Carter, one of the speakers at the meeting tonight, raised the same points about the behavior at the March 27 meeting. Here's a copy of the email she sent after the last board meeting to Hill:

Dear Mr. Hill,

I attended the March 27th Board Meeting. I was overwhelmed by the overall conduct of several people present. I have not been to any Board of Education meeting before and after the meeting last night, I am not sure when I will attend again. It was an atmosphere of hostility and disrespect. There were numerous disruptions and interruptions by those in the audience. Some examples are as follows:

When Debra Goldman offered up a prayer, several members in the audience loudly said oh my god and moaned all while the prayer was being said.

During public comments Amy Lee directed personal insults and attack at Mr. Tata when she stated, "Liar, liar pants on fire. Mr. Tata are your pants on fire? From the public's perspective, your pants are on raging fire."

Throughout the entire Board Meeting up until the last public agenda item, there was so many distractingly loud moans, sighs, "Oh my God!", and "What?" when certain board members tried to speak. It did not matter what they were speaking on.

At one point when Debra Goldman was speaking, someone from the audience, yelled out, "Why don't you offer up a prayer?"

This type of behavior being tolerated is quite concerning to me and appears to encourage an atmosphere at the Board of Education meetings that discourages participation from the general public due to the interruptions and hostile environment.

After reviewing Board Policy, I have found several policies that were out of compliance last night:

According to Policy 1323 Rules of Order Section B. Role of the Chair

"4. Determine whether a speaker has gone beyond reasonable standards of courtesy in her/his remarks and to entertain and rule on objections from other members on this ground."

According to Policy 1326 Public Participation at Board Meetings

"14. Speakers are welcome to offer comments or criticism directed at substantive ideas, actions or procedures of the Board, individual Board members, or staff. In the interest of maintaining civility and decorum, however, speakers are encouraged to refrain from personal attacks and insults directed at the Board, individual Board members, staff, or members of the general public."

"16. Any person who interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts the Board meeting may be directed to leave the premises by the Board Chair."

"17. Members of the audience should show respect for each speaker by refraining from loud comments or other disruptions."

According to Policy 1330 Disruptions of Meetings

"Persons, who willfully interrupt, disrupt, or cause disturbances at an official meeting of the board may be directed to leave by the presiding officer. If any such person refuses to leave after being directed to do so, pursuant to General Statute 143-318.17, he or she is guilty of a misdemeanor."

Clearly the specific list of the actions displayed by some at the meeting last night violated the above policies. I ask that at future meetings, these policies be applied so that anyone from the public may attend and not feel threatened by the behavior being displayed. Could you please let me know how you as the Chair will address these issues if they should arise again?

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Carter

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-county-school-board-members-deborah-prickett-and-debra-goldman-sound-off-about-gsiw-and-#storylink=cpy>

F for courtesy

After attending the Wake County school board meeting on Tuesday, March 27, I walk away more disturbed by the actions of some of those in attendance than any topic discussed during the meeting.

We had adults yelling out in the middle of board member Debra Goldman's prayer. Others would moan and holler out anytime they heard something they did not like. Someone even addressed Superintendent Tony Tata by saying, "Liar, liar pants on fire. Mr. Tata, are your pants on fire?"

Although I may not like all the things that the board or school system staff says or approves, I realize the need for respect for others.

It reminds me of what I was told as a child: Treat others as you would like to be treated. This goes a lot further than any name calling, yelling or personal attacks.

If you want others to hear you and respond in a way favorable to you, I recommend taking this approach. Even though you may not get what you want, people are more receptive when they are not feeling attacked and, more importantly, it would be something that our kids could see and learn from. Isn't this how we want them to be?

Karen Carter

Cary

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/03/29/1965683/karen-carter-f-for-courtesy.html#storylink=cpy>

From: Allison Backhouse [mailto:abackhouse@nc.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:39 PM

To: Kevin Hill

Cc: Anthony Tata; Chris Malone; Christine Kushner; Deborah Prickett; Debra Goldman; James Martin; John Tedesco; Keith Sutton; Susan Evans; AMajestic@tharringtonsmith.com

Subject: Re: Comments

Mr. Hill,

Which part of calling Supt. Tata a "liar, liar, pants on fire" is on target and driving a point home? I suggest you reel your friends in, Mr. Hill. They make attending Board meetings very uncomfortable.

Allison Backhouse

On 3/28/2012 12:42 PM, Kevin Hill wrote:

Dear Mrs. Backhouse,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts. While observing the Board prior to 2007, and then serving on the Board since then, citizen comment has largely been uncensored - even during the oversight of our immediate past Chair, Chairman Margiotta. While comments last evening were strong, to say the least, they were not slanderous or libelous. What might be appear to be disrespectful and attacking to one segment of the population, might be considered on target and driving a point home by another segment.

Respectfully,
Kevin

Kevin L. Hill, Chairman
Wake County Board of Education
District 3
Email: KLHill@wcpss.net
Vmail: 919.850.8867
Fax: 919.841.4377

-----Allison Backhouse <abackhouse@nc.rr.com> wrote: -----

To: Kevin Hill/Superintendent/WCPSS@STAFF

From: Allison Backhouse <abackhouse@nc.rr.com>

Date: 03/28/2012 08:54AM

Cc: Chris Malone/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, Christine Kushner/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, John Tedesco/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, Deborah Prickett/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, Susan Evans/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, Keith Sutton/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, Debra Goldman/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, James Martin/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, Anthony Tata/Superintendent/WCPSS@STAFF
Subject: Comments

Chair Hill,

I listened to the public comment portion of last night's Board meeting. I am just amazed how disrespectful and attacking some remarks were -- and that you allowed them to continue. I realize you may have gotten numb to the hateful approach of the many GSIW members who speak at every meeting but I can assure you that others haven't -- and never will. I encourage you to gain better control of your meetings.

Allison Backhouse

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/02/21/v-print/1873398/tata-says-school-board-members.html>

Tata claims school board members have potential ethics violations

By Keung Hui - khui@newsobserver.com

PUBLISHED IN: EDUCATION

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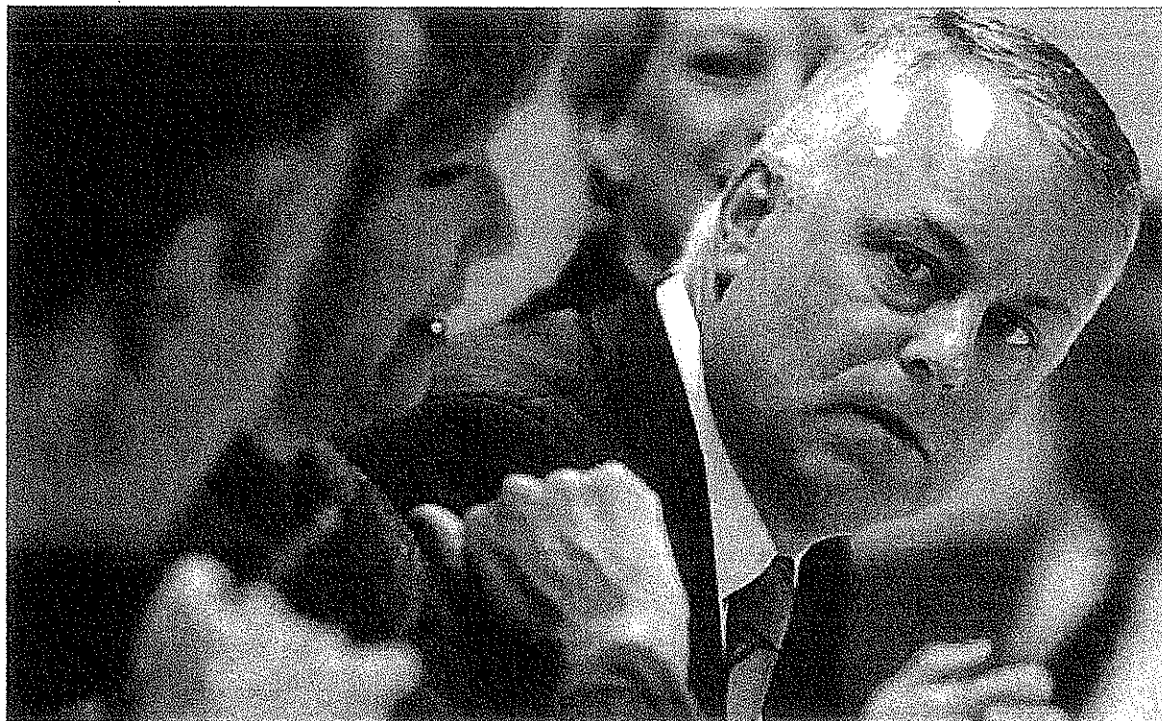
[Tata, Wake board members spar over group critical of assignment plan](#)

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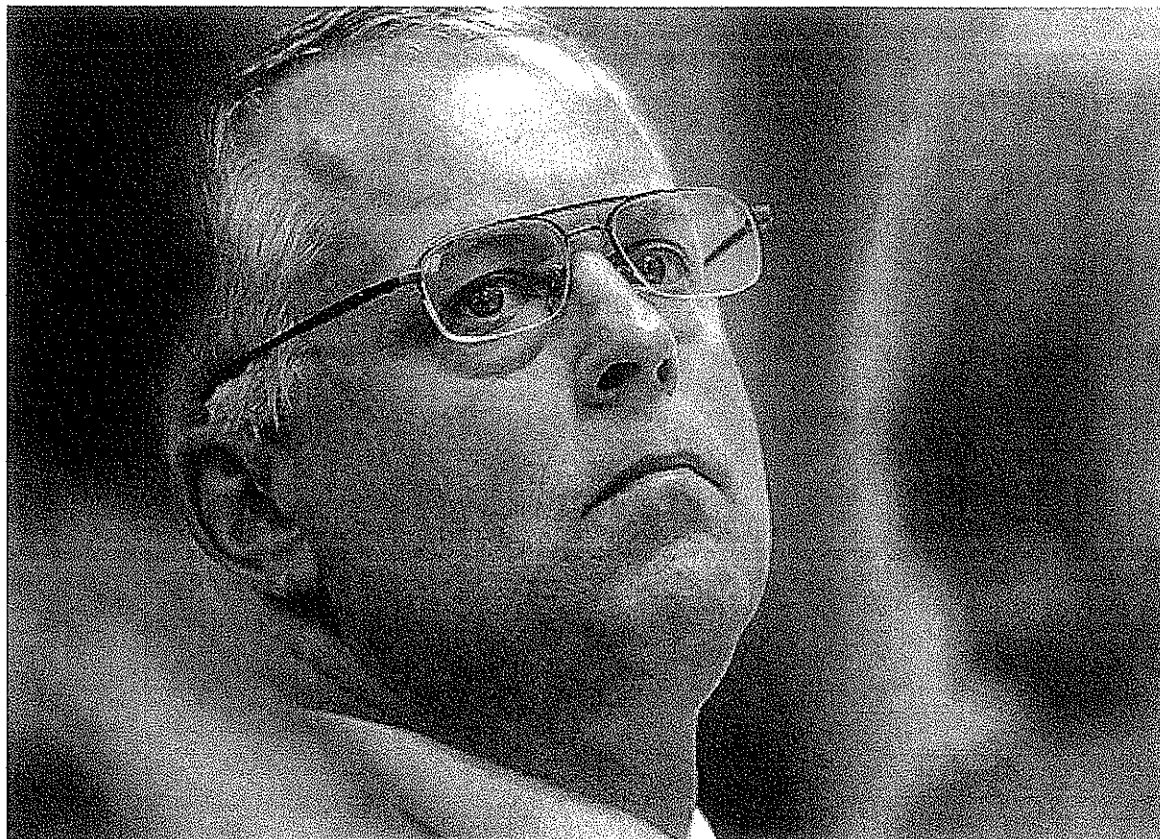


cliddy@newsobserver.com

Wake County School Board members listen as Superintendent Tony Tata, second from left, clarifies a point about future transportation issues during a work session Tuesday Feb. 21, 2012 in Cary, N.C.



tiwabu@newsobserver.com

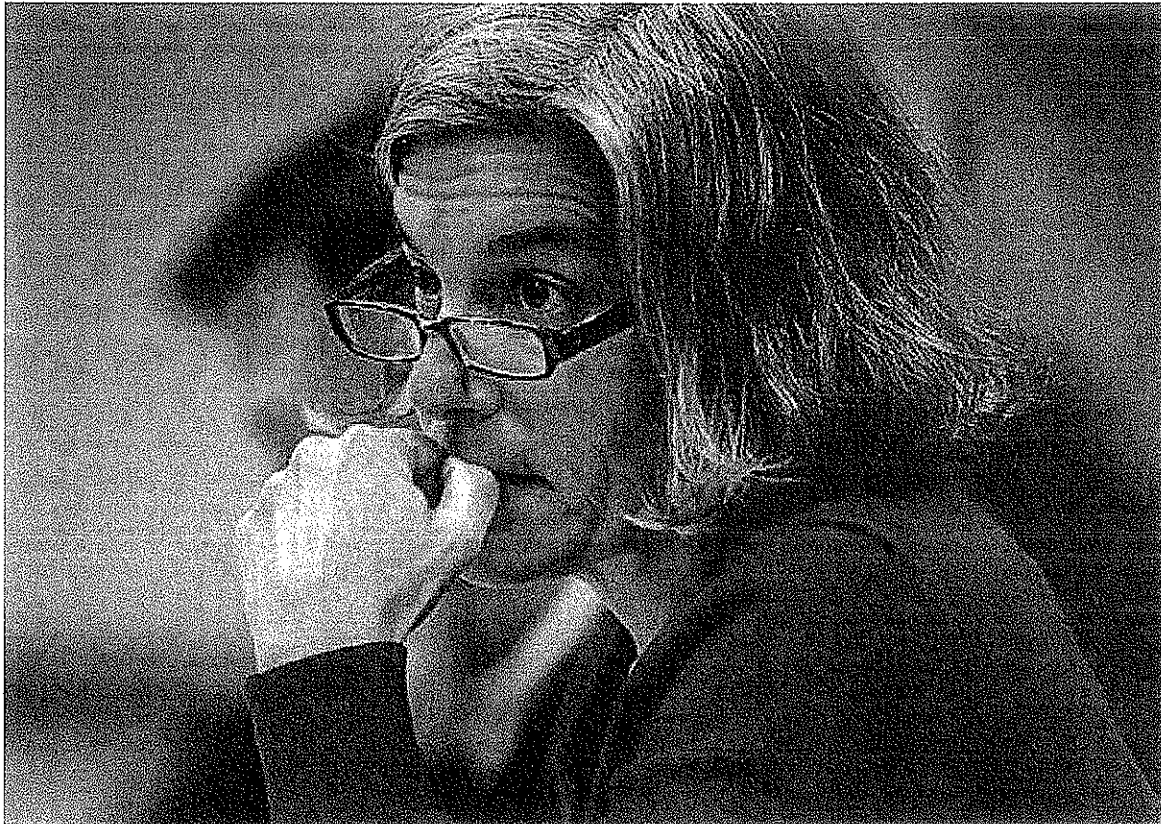


Robert Willett - rwillett@newsobserver.com

Tony Tata stuck his neck out by insisting Wake couldn't afford any delay in adopting the schools plan.



News & Observer file photo



News & Observer file photo

Wake County Superintendent Tony Tata continued today to raise concerns that a group critical of him and the new student assignment “has a stranglehold” on two school board members.

Tata said today that there “are potential serious code of ethics violations” from board members Susan Evans and Christine Kushner’s affiliation with the Great Schools in Wake Coalition. Both board members have said they’re no longer active members of Great Schools with Tata charging they had refused his requests to “sever their ties with this special interest group.”

“I fear that the hard work put into raising our accreditation, protecting our high school diplomas, and demonstrating good governance over the past year is threatened by the very narrow interests of this special interest group and the stranglehold they have on a couple of board members,” Tata said today.

Tata and the two board members, who were elected in October, engaged in a heated series of weekend emails about their relationship with Great Schools.

Great Schools has been a frequent critic of the new assignment plan, urging that it be delayed. It’s also been highly critical of Tata, accusing him of eroding the public’s trust.

Tata pointed against today to how Kushner and Evans publicly accepted an award for Great Schools that WakeUP Wake County gave on Jan. 30. He also noted how Kushner, Evans and the third new Democratic board member Jim Martin had been privately working on a resolution in December to delay the assignment plan.

“Membership in or support of special interest groups is strictly forbidden, as are secret meetings, secret draft resolutions and the like,” Tata said today. “Their attendance on stage as members of GSIW less than 3 weeks ago at an award ceremony is tantamount to members of the General Assembly banking and finance committee receiving an award on behalf of Bank of America and then returning to the committee table pretending to represent all banks and the public equally.”

Kushner said that the award was for their past work with Great Schools.

Kushner reiterated today that she’s listening to all groups as a board member.

“I’m focused on serving as a board member and living up to the code of ethics,” Kushner said. “I take it very seriously.”

Kushner said today that she’s hoping to have a private meeting soon with Tata in which they’ll discuss their respective roles and responsibilities. Tata said he’s hoping the meeting will work through the concerns he has raised.

From: Susan Evans [mailto:evanssc@mindspring.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:22 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: The ocean

I think TT may be a dolphin ☺

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:doukab@nc.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:07 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Susan Evans

Subject: Fw: The ocean

Think we need to bring these to the next BOE meeting. Some are a bit naughty! But, everyone will wonder what on earth we are smiling about! :)



Children Writing About the Ocean...

1) - This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles.

(Kelly, age 6)

2) - Oysters' balls are called pearls.

(Jerry, age 6)

3) - If you are surrounded by ocean, you are an island. If you don't have ocean all round you, you are incontinent.

(Mike, age 7)

4) - Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson . She's not my friend any more.

(Kylie, age 6)

5) - A dolphin breaths through an asshole on the top of its head.

(Billy, age 8)

6) - When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans.

(William, age 7)

7) - Mermaids live in the ocean. I like mermaids. They are beautiful and I like their shiny tails, but how on earth do mermaids get pregnant? Like, really?

(Helen, age 6)

8) - I'm not going to write about the ocean. My baby brother is always crying, my Dad keeps yelling at my Mom, and my big

sister has just got pregnant, so I can't think what to write. -- :(
Sad, but probably true! LN)

(Amy, age 6)

9) - Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting.
Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in
caves under the sea where I think they have to plug
themselves in to chargers.

(Christopher, age 7)

10) - When you go swimming in the ocean, it is very
cold, and it makes my willy small.

(Kevin, age 6)

11) - The ocean is made up of water and fish. Why the
fish don't drown I don't know.

(Bobby, age 6)

12) - My dad was a sailor on the ocean. He knows all
about the ocean. What he doesn't know is why he quit
being a sailor and married my mom. (James, age 7)

If you didn't smile at one of these, you need to find a
better sense of humor.

Wake County school board on the level of bus service for preassigned feeder students

Submitted by KeungHui on 05/16/2012 - 06:00

Tags: WakeEd | Ann Majestic | Anthony Tata | Chris Malone | Christine Kushner | Deborah Prickett | Debra Goldman | Don Haydon | feeder | James Overman | Jim Martin | John Tedesco | Keith Sutton | reassignment | school funding | school transportation | Susan Evans | Tony Tata | transfers

What responsibility does the Wake County school system have in providing transportation to preassigned rising sixth- and ninth-graders who don't have bus service this fall?

As noted in today's article, the school board voted to direct staff to, when possible, modify existing bus routes to accommodate students or to offer them a spot at a school on their proximity list that would give them transportation.

But that motion stops short of guaranteeing bus service to their feeder school. And that motion only extends to students who are receiving bus service this year and would lose it this fall, not transfer students who now don't get bus service.

In what would later prove to be a key issue, Superintendent Tony Tata said during the work session that the old assignment plan had 9,000 students who were assigned without transportation as a result of transfers. He made this point to argue that cutting the bus service for the 470 rising sixth- and ninth-graders who had it this year isn't a unique situation.

Tata said most of the 470 students chose not to participate in the choice process. Staff says only 70 of them are on waiting lists. This group consists of 292 rising sixth-graders and 178 rising ninth-graders.

Tata also said that if they guaranteed bus service to the 470, which would cost \$2 million to run 30 more buses, then the 9,000 transfer students would ask "what about me?"

School board member Jim Martin was clearly skeptical of the \$2 million figure, saying "that can't be right."

Chief Facilities and Operations Officer Don Haydon said it would cost that much because the students are scattered across the county.

Martin said he would press ahead with his motion to include bus service for all preassigned students. School board attorney Ann Majestic said that language was very broad and would cover the transfer students.

In a point he would repeat, Martin said he wasn't comfortable with not guaranteeing them transportation to their feeder school.

"I don't want to pressure families into saying you only have transportation if you go this school that's not your choice," Martin said.

Jumping to the regular meeting, staff made sure to include in their motion that it only affected rising sixth- and ninth-graders who now get bus service but would lose it by going to their preassigned feeder. This limited it to 470 student and didn't include transfer students.

School board member Christine Kushner questioned not including transfer students. She said in the past when families got transfers, they didn't realize it would lead to a feeder without transportation too.

Martin complained that the wording, by not guaranteeing transportation, isn't different to what staff had been doing. Martin wanted to modify the motion to say they'd make all effort, not just say when it can be provided.

Also, since staff said 80 percent of the 470 students are from low-performing nodes, Martin wanted to change the motion to say that staff would get the students into a regional choice school and not just any school on their list.

"It's absolutely our obligation not to disadvantage our students with the highest needs," Martin said.

School board member Susan Evans would also make a pitch for guaranteeing service. She said providing a family with their fifth choice isn't a real choice.

"Families are looking to us to give them some certainty in these crazy times they're in with this transition to this new plan," Evans said. "We've got a lot of people caught in the middle."

School board member John Tedesco brought up the cost factor of guaranteeing transportation.

"It would be irresponsible to mandate a will without looking at, if that does cost \$2 million, where that cost is coming from," Tedesco said.

Tedesco questioned spending that money for those few students when they could spend \$2 million improving cleaning services for all the district's students.

"Those number are not appropriate," Martin interjected.

"This is not a court of law, you can't object," Tedesco responded.

Kushner proposed a friendly amendment that would strike the words "currently receiving district transportation" from the motion. This would then lump in the transfer students who currently don't have transportation.

School board vice chairman Keith Sutton called a recess to let staff determine how many students would be affected by that wording.

After the recess, James Overman, head of the student assignment task force, said it would raise the number of students impacted to 1,039.

Based on that higher amount, school board member Chris Malone, who made the motion to accept staff's motion, said he couldn't accept the amendment.

The tenor of the conversation proceeded to get testier.

School board member Deborah Prickett said she had to question whether Martin's motives were genuine when he said that providing bus service to all the students is the cost of business.

Tedesco said the people who had gotten transfers accepted they weren't getting bus service.

Evans said those people didn't know when they got a transfer they'd be in this new feeder system.

Evans also touched on the impact of guaranteeing bus service for the 470 students. Evans said that staff has "admitted several times" they don't know the full transportation cost of the new plan.

"The little piece that these couple of hundred students would add isn't much," Evans said. "We know that transportation costs will go up."

Tata said they've consistently said the new assignment plan will cost five to 25 additional buses.

Martin brought up former Secretary of State Colin Powell's "Pottery Barn" rule of "you break it, you own it," to say that bus service should be guaranteed.

"We didn't break anything," Tata responded.

Martin also said he had "a hard time" accepting that it would only cost five to 25 more buses. He said he "won't be surprised" if Wake will need more buses.

"I don't feel we did an appropriate costing of the plan and now we're paying the consequence," Martin said.

Kushner called for board members to have respect when others are speaking and to stop questioning motives.

Not long afterward, school board member Debra Goldman accused Martin of talking over everyone. I didn't hear it, but Prickett said she had heard Evans say "hush" to Goldman over her remark.. Prickett also said Evans said "get a life" to her when she pointed it out.

The board eventually went back to voting on the motion from staff. It passed on a 6-3 vote.

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-county-school-board-on-the-level-of-bus-service-for-preassigned-feeder-students?page=1#storylink=cpy>

Wake County school board member Jim Martin alleging political partisanship in bell schedule changes

Submitted by KeungHui on 04/09/2012 - 15:27

Tags: WakeEd | Anthony Tata | bell schedule | bell schedules | Christine Kushner | Don Haydon | Green Elementary | Jim Martin | Kevin Hill | Lincoln Heights Elementary | Tony Tata

Wake County school board chairman Kevin Hill is defending staff members against fellow Democratic board member Jim Martin's allegations of political partisanship in the 2012-13 school bell schedules.

The issue is the changes recommended by staff, and later approved by board, to the original bell schedule proposal. In a March 27 email, Martin charged that "only schools in districts represented by Republican members of the Board were changed."

"I am not pleased with the fact that there still is too much partisanship in Board decisions," Martin wrote. "It appears to me that this is another example."

Martin called for his allegations to be looked into.

On March 28, Superintendent Tony Tata responded in an email that "Dr. Martin, your contention is unfounded and not true." Tata pointed to changes made to Democratic board member Christine Kushner's district.

"This was a professional recommendation proffered based upon listening to parents and considering the good of the system vs the unique needs and demands of specific school communities," Tata wrote.

Several school board members chimed in with their responses to Martin, including Hill, who said he had turned down a change suggested by staff for his district.

"I am dismayed by this note," Hill wrote in a March 28 email. "Staff has worked extremely hard on trying to lessen the impact of bell schedule changes for the quickly approaching new school year. I have every confidence that political considerations would not influence Don Haydon's team."

Hill also asked that "this note ends this email thread!" Hill said that the kinds of concerns raised by Martin should be discussed face-to-face and not via emails, which are public record.

Here's Martin's email:

From: James Martin

Sent: 03/27/2012 11:48 PM EDT

To: BoardMembers@STAFF; Anthony Tata; Judith Peppler; Donald Haydon; Robert Snidemiller

Cc: amajestic@tharringtonsmith.com

Subject: Lite bell schedule plan

Dear Colleagues,

I was concerned about a matter in the bell schedule changes, but was not certain enough about the matter to raise the issue in the public meeting. I believe it turns out I should have.

I am very glad for the schools and corresponding families for whom bell schedule changes were made. However, as I look through the list, only schools in districts represented by Republican members of the Board were changed. I am not pleased with the fact that there still is too much partisanship in Board decisions. It appears to me that this is another example. I have a very hard time believing that it is just a coincidence that of the eight schools that saw correction/compromise adjustments in this bell schedule passed tonight, three were in Ms. Goldman's district, two were in Ms. Prickett's district, two were in Mr. Malone's district, and one in Mr. Tedesco's district. Not a single change requested by parents was made in districts 3, 4, 5, 6 or 8.

I respectfully request that this matter be looked into. I hope this was not intentional. But this is the kind of thing that should intentionally not be done.

Respectfully,

Jim Martin

Here's Tata's response to Martin:

To: James Martin/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, BoardMembers@STAFF, Judith
Peppler/Transformation/WCPSS@STAFF, Donald Macpherson Haydon/AuxiliarySvcs/WCPSS@Staff,
Robert Snidemiller/Transportation/WCPSS@Staff

From: Anthony Tata/Superintendent/WCPSS

Date: 03/28/2012 06:47AM

Cc: "amajestic" <amajestic@tharringtonsmith.com>

Subject: Re: Lite bell schedule plan

Dr. Martin, your contention is unfounded and not true. Politics played no role in the bell schedule compromise solution. Green ES and Lynn Road, for example, are in Ms Kushner's district. Green changed from a two tier move to a one tier. Lynn Road could have easily paid the bill for the Lead Mine change (and was recommended to me that it do so) but understanding the challenges that school is facing we held fast on their new 830 start time, which Ms. Kushner had communicated they were happy with. I couldn't tell you what district Lincoln Heights is in but we moved that because the principal engaged me early about her plight of going through demagnetization, much newer schools (Akins, Ballantine and Banks) just down the road, and her need for a desirable start time. Mr. Sutton's district had no change at all, I don't believe, from the very beginning, so it could be argued the plan favored his district most of all. There are other examples but I will stop there. This was a professional recommendation proffered based

upon listening to parents and considering the good of the system vs the unique needs and demands of specific school communities. Thx, Tony

Here's Hill's response to Martin:

To: James Martin/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff

From: Kevin Hill/Superintendent/WCPSS

Date: 03/28/2012 01:28PM

Cc: amajestic@tharringtonsmith.com, BoardMembers@STAFF, Anthony Tata/Superintendent/WCPSS@STAFF, Donald Macpherson Haydon/AuxiliarySvcs/WCPSS@Staff, James Martin/Superintendent/WCPSS@Staff, Judith Peppler/Transformation/WCPSS@STAFF, Robert Snidemiller/Transportation/WCPSS@Staff

Subject: Re: Lite bell schedule plan

Jim and All,

I am dismayed by this note. Staff has worked extremely hard on trying to lessen the impact of bell schedule changes for the quickly approaching new school year. I have every confidence that political considerations would not influence Don Haydon's team. The delicate balance of making the first major bus schedule changes in over 10 years is a difficult challenge in and of itself. From my perspective, Board members' concerns were taken into consideration. I declined one change in District 3 because I did not believe it would go far enough towards helping our 5 of 16 schools that were shifted 45 minutes. Nonetheless, I was consulted.

I respectfully ask that this note ends this email thread! If concerns continue to exist, I believe that professionalism dictates that concerns / questions of this nature be discussed face-to-face and not in the public eye. My momma always told me "not to air my dirty laundry in public!" Disagreement and asking hard, challenging questions are part of everyone's responsibility as we continue to work together in the best interests the WCPSS. This type of exchange does not help us move towards our unwritten, but publicly affirmed goal (by all nine Board members) of working together in the best interests of our children.

Respectfully,

Kevin

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-county-school-board-member-jim-martin-alleging-political-partisanship-in-bell-schedule-c#storylink=cpy#storylink=cpy>

Announcement of Partnership between Peace and WCPSS

http://www.wcpss.net/news/2011_nov1_peace-leadership/

**Wake County Public School System and William Peace University
Developing Leadership Academy Partnership**

November 1, 2011 – The Wake County Public School System and William Peace University are working on plans to establish an early college campus for the school system's new single-gender leadership academies for students in grades six through 13 effective fall 2012.

Under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding being developed by WCPSS and William Peace University that will be presented to their respective boards, the Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy and the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy will be located entirely on the Peace campus. The two schools' curricula are designed to develop future leaders through team cohesiveness, academic rigor and personal attention in a highly structured environment committed to success. All students attending the Wake Leadership Academies will graduate on time with college credits, motivated and highly prepared to be college- and career-ready.



**WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**



**WILLIAM PEACE
UNIVERSITY**
Your Success. Our Mission.

Attending either the Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy or Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy is completely voluntary. To be considered for acceptance, a student must submit an application including an essay and letters of recommendation. Other application requirements include a review of past achievement data and attendance records, and an interview with prospective students. Ideally, half of Wake Leadership Academy students will be first-generation college bound.

Representatives of the Wake Leadership Academies will be available at the WCPSS Magnet Fair this Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, located at 2600 Rock Quarry Road in Raleigh. Applications will be available online beginning Nov. 5 and are due no later than Friday, Jan. 13. Notifications of selection will begin in February 2012.

"We're excited about the chance to work with William Peace University," said WCPSS Superintendent Tony Tata. "Our school system has a strong history of partnering with higher education to provide unique, student-centered instruction. We look forward to bringing a solid proposal to the Wake County Board of Education and Peace's Board of Trustees."

"William Peace University is excited about the possibility of collaborating and joining with the Wake County Public School System on this innovative project," said Debra M. Townsley,

Ph.D., president of William Peace University. "We support any worthwhile efforts to expand educational opportunities in our community, and I believe this program is deserving of further discovery."

In addition, WCPSS has begun discussions with the General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Center at North Carolina State University to offer some of its programming to leadership academy students. The Shelton Leadership Center's offerings include value-based leadership skills centered on principles of honesty, integrity, compassion, respect for diversity, and social responsibility. Hands-on leadership opportunities and "360-degree" feedback components would also be integrated.

As WCPSS staff developed the leadership academy concept, they considered the under-utilized facilities at the Longview School, River Oaks Middle School and Mary Phillips High for program expansion.

"A partnership with Peace would provide a stronger foundation for these two innovative schools," said Tata. "We're still exploring ways to use the Longview, River Oaks and Phillips facilities more efficiently while strengthening the student services currently provided there."

About WCPSS: The Wake County Public School System comprises more than 146,000 students, 165 schools, and more than 10,000 teachers and instructional staff dedicated to high expectations and achievement for every child. It is the largest school system in North Carolina, and the 17th-largest in the nation. Based in Cary, NC, WCPSS serves the families of the state capital, Raleigh, and its surrounding suburban and rural communities. The 8,858 graduates of its Class of 2011 earned \$79.8 million in scholarships with more than 1,498 National Honor Society graduates. WCPSS offers a range of innovative academic opportunities including a nationally-recognized magnet program, networks of STEM and Global schools, early colleges and leadership academies. For more information, visit www.wcpss.net.

About William Peace University: William Peace University is located in the heart of Raleigh, North Carolina. It was founded in 1857 as Peace Institute, offering education for boys and girls in primary grades and to women from high school to college. Peace, an all women's college, became a four-year baccalaureate college and graduated its first bachelor's students in August of 1996. Peace began offering coeducational evening courses through the William Peace School of Professional Studies in 2009. In 2011, Peace College transitioned to William Peace University and will begin admitting male students to its day program in fall 2012. Its mission is to prepare students for careers in the organizations of tomorrow. On average, more than 90 percent of the university's graduates are placed in jobs or graduate school within one year of graduation. For more information, please visit www.peace.edu.

Peace University website statement regarding division of the school board:

<http://www.peace.edu/content/page/id/1348>

Update on the WCPSS Leadership Academies



William Peace University has requested that the Wake County Public School System remove the university from consideration for the leadership academies due to the division and controversy on the Wake County Public School System board. We wish the Wake County Public School System the best as they continue to consider whether to move forward with the leadership academies.

-Peace University backs out of deal for Wake County single-sex leadership schools

Submitted by KeungHui on 04/12/2012 - 17:17

Tags: WakeEd | Peace University | single-gender schools

Peace University just issued this statement walking away from the deal for the single-sex schools:

STATEMENT

“William Peace University has requested that the Wake County Public School System remove the university from consideration for the leadership academies due to the division and controversy on the Wake County Public School System board. We wish the Wake County Public School System the best as they continue to consider whether to move forward with the leadership academies.” – William Peace University

It looks like the Wake County school board will need to use its contingency plans for the schools.

UPDATE

Here's the statement the Wake County school system released in response to Peace's statement:

"The Wake County Public School System and William Peace University have been unable to reach an agreement on the location of the early college portion of the Leadership Academies. We will continue discussions in the future at a time that works for both of us to determine what is in the best interest of both organizations and their students."

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/peace-university-backs-out-of-deal-for-wake-county-single-sex-leadership-schools#storylink=cpy>

Deal to house Wake County single-sex leadership academies at Peace University fell apart quickly

Submitted by KeungHui on 04/13/2012 - 06:00

Tags: WakeEd | Christine Kushner | Miriam Dorsey | Peace University | single-gender schools

The deal to house the Wake County school system's two new single-sex leadership academies at William Peace University fell apart in a matter of days this week.

As noted in today's article, the turning point came during Tuesday's school board meeting. The lobbying from Peace alumnae and students against the deal culminated in a lengthy closed-session board discussion that resulted in new questions for Peace that the university decided not to answer.

Peace's response was the terse statement saying it was walking away "due to the division and controversy on the Wake County Public School System board."

Miriam Dorsey, one of the alumna fighting the deal, said the school board shouldn't be blamed for Peace walking away.

"The reality is the (school) board could not find the answer to many, many questions," she said.

Dorsey said at least five school board members had agreed with the alumnae that the move to Peace "was not the best thing to do." She said the panel's five Democrats were more likely to speak out on the issue.

Democratic school board member Christine Kushner declined to respond to Peace's allegations of "division and controversy on the" school board.

"My focus is on the 300 students who will be at the leadership academies," Kushner said. "We will keep going forward with the leadership academies. Many parents want single gender and the leadership theme."

UPDATE

Here's a press release issued today by the Peace alumnae who've hired a PR firm in their fight against the new administration:

April 13, 2012

From: protectpeacecollege.com

Subject: We Won Round One!

We made ourselves heard. Our calls, emails and visits to Wake County school board members paid off. Yesterday, William Peace University backed out of a proposed deal to house single-sex leadership high schools on campus. Peace's decision apparently caught the school board by surprise. See below to view the news coverage.

We're just getting started. This fiasco points to the fundamental problems under Peace's new leadership.

Just as we can't get straight answers and reliable information from the new administration, school board members couldn't get straight answers and reliable information about the school deal. So the deal sank.

We'll continue asking questions about what is happening at Peace. We will continue to seek honesty, openness and transparency – not hostility, secrecy and stone-walling.

We're setting up a new website – www.protectpeacecollege.com – to keep Peace alumnae and friends informed. It's still under construction. But visit it today and sign up for email alerts.

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/deal-to-house-wake-county-single-sex-leadership-academies-at-peace-university-fell-apart-quick#storylink=cpy>

Peace University backs out of deal to house Wake single-sex schools

Published Fri, Apr 13, 2012 12:00 AM

Modified Wed, Jun 06, 2012 05:32 AM

By T. Keung Hui and Thomas Goldsmith The News and Observer

Tags: Wake County schools | single-sex schools | leadership academies

Students at Wake County's two new single-sex schools will attend classes somewhere other than William Peace University this fall.

On Thursday, Peace University officials issued a terse statement announcing they no longer wanted to continue negotiations with the school system to house the leadership academies at their historic downtown Raleigh campus.

The deal collapsed after Wake school board members, heeding the concerns of influential Peace alumnae, began raising questions about the proposed lease deal.

“William Peace University has requested that the Wake County Public School System remove the university from consideration for the leadership academies due to the division and controversy on the Wake County Public School System board,” according to the statement.

But Wake County Schools Superintendent Tony Tata is reassuring parents of the 300 students who were accepted into the leadership academies this fall that there are backup plans in place.

“Regardless of which early college partner we secure, the Wake County School Board and the Wake County Public School System are committed to the Leadership Academies,” Tata wrote in a letter sent Wednesday to families at the leadership schools.

Tata told parents another option would be to house the male academy at a modular school site next to East Millbrook Middle School in North Raleigh, and to locate the female academy at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind near downtown Raleigh.

The leadership academies were one of several changes undertaken at Peace, the all-female school that in the past year has announced it will take male students and change its name from Peace College.

The proposed leadership academies, which could have brought 400 high school students on campus, became another flashpoint in the fight between the administration and alumnae. Peace alumnae and students questioned the ability of accommodating the high school students on the small campus.

Miriam Dorsey, a Peace College graduate who worked with other alumnae to question moves by the new university administration, said she was surprised that the turnabout on the academies came so suddenly.

“The whole thing has been very curious,” she said. “It was amazing that (Peace) waited until the vote was about to come upon them. We had tried to talk to people at Peace and on the school board about the inadvisability about having the high schools there.”

At least five school board members agreed with Dorsey’s group, she said, adding that the panel’s five Democrats were more likely to speak out on the issue.

Dorsey and other speakers urged the school board to walk away from the deal at a meeting Tuesday. The school board held a lengthy closed session and planned to revisit the deal April 24.

“The best place for the leadership academy students may not have been at Peace during the transition it’s going through,” school board member Christine Kushner, a Democrat, said Thursday.

The district is forming a separate school for male students and another for female students. Attending grades six through 12 with a leadership-oriented theme, students would be able to graduate high school with two years of college credit.

Wake received more than 1,000 applications to the academies, the only single-sex schools in the system.

Kushner said because the academies are opening the first year with only students in sixth, seventh and ninth grades, they have time to find another college partner. High school students wouldn't begin taking college courses until their junior year.

"We will keep going forward with the leadership academies," she said. "Many parents want single gender and the leadership theme."

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/04/12/1997513/wake-county-developing-backup.html#storylink=cpy>

Wake County school board committee debates guaranteeing school spots for families who want to return

Submitted by KeungHui on 05/30/2012 - 11:38

Tags: WakeEd | Christine Kushner | Debra Goldman | Jim Martin | John Tedesco | Judy Peppler | Karen Hamilton | Laura Evans | policy committee | reassignment | transfers

Should the Wake County school system hold spots at specific schools for families who say they're leaving but intend to return?

If a guarantee can be given, should it be limited only to families citing sabbaticals from universities or professional leave to go on unique job opportunities? Or should there be no guarantee for any family that leaves with Wake saying it will try, space permitting, to put them back at the same school when they return?

Those questions formed the heart of a lengthy discussion at Tuesday's school board policy committee meeting on whether not having base assignments in the new student assignment plan requires development of a family and professional leave policy.

Board member Jim Martin, chair of the policy committee, said he knows at least two example of fellow N.C. State professors who were going on sabbaticals and were worried about their kids losing their current assignment.

Martin said the provost of N.C. State asked him to help out.

Martin said other examples exist so Wake should have a policy that goes beyond the faculties of universities to cover families who have short-term professional opportunities.

Laura Evans, senior director for growth and planning, said one of the problems with putting any of these families back in their old schools would be the state-mandated class size limits at K-3.

Board member Debra Goldman asked how fair it would be to hold a seat at a school like Davis Drive Middle School where there's a waiting list with "people lining up to get in."

Evans said that staff's proposal is to handle it under the transfer policy. Families who've left the district can submit a transfer request back to their old school if they don't get in during the choice application process.

Evans said staff would view the transfer request based on whether space is available and, for K-3, whether they're still within class-size limits. If not, she said they'd reject the request with the parents able to appeal to the school board.

What Evans proposed would be more of a broad approach that affects anyone who leaves the district and who wants to return. That's why Karen Hamilton, senior director of counseling and student services, said they have to make sure they're consistent in how they handle these requests.

Hamilton cited the example of students whose parents say they have to travel back to Mexico but will return with their children. She said they need to consider that those families might not have the same level of resources to know they can appeal to the board if their transfer request is rejected.

Goldman said that they should be careful they're not treating a family that's left the system higher than someone who is on the wait list or who is in the school's walk zone.

Martin countered Goldman by saying there's a difference between someone who's already been attending a school and wants to return and someone who is on a waiting list to get in for the first time. He said the family that wants to return has already developed some stability and some relationships at the school.

Martin added that he didn't want to hinder professional opportunities for parents

"How will not guaranteeing the seat hinder professional opportunity?" Goldman said.

Martin brought up the example of how a parent at a company like IBM might get a short-term opportunity to work in India. He said that while it might be a great opportunity for parents and students, it might not be as valuable if they can't be sure they'll get their seat back.

Board member Christine Kushner added that she had a talk Tuesday with a family that has an opportunity to go to California but isn't sure because they're worried about giving up their spot at an oversubscribed elementary school that's two blocks from where they live.

Goldman said Wake isn't in a position to provide an unlimited guaranteed return.

"I can't see how you can guarantee a year or two down the road," Goldman said. "What if they decide not to come back? Then we're holding up a seat at a school."

Martin said that they don't have to have an open-ended return date. He said families can be required to list when they plan to return to get back their spot.

Martin also said that staff's intention to make every effort possible to grant a transfer request for families on professional leave isn't a firm enough commitment.

Board member John Tedesco said that the situations where families are returning from sabbaticals and professional leaves are so few that a formal policy wouldn't necessarily serve the district well. But Martin said if it's a few families then they should be able to provide a guarantee.

"How can we as a system work with your business partners, our academic partners, our community partners so we can provide them opportunities?" Martin said.

Martin compared this kind of student assignment request to the federal Family Medical Leave Act. He said people didn't think that would work either.

Chief Transformation Office Judy Peppler responded that FMLA doesn't guarantee that a person will get the same job upon returning. The person can get a similar position, which she said would happen in Wake where a family that returns can get a similar school if there's not space in their prior school.

Goldman said she could support guaranteeing a spot if a family returns within the same school year but not if it's into the next one.

When Hamilton later brought up again the issue of treating all families the same and that people on professional leave have more resources, Martin fired back.

"While I'm a big fan of equity, we're not going to do anything positive for a system by defining equity by the lowest common denominator," Martin said.

Martin said there's a difference between people who are requesting professional leaves and other families who want come back.

After some more back and forth between Martin and staff, Goldman accused Martin of "badgering staff." She said it's now up to the board to have further discussion on whether a policy is needed.

Martin responded that he wasn't badgering staff. He said he strongly disagreed with Goldman accusing him of badgering when he's having "firm discussion" with staff.

Goldman made a motion to handle these kinds of requests under the transfer policy, which would mean not having to develop a separate leave policy. The vote was deadlocked 2-2 with Goldman and Tedesco in support of leaving it under the transfer policy while Kushner and Martin voted no.

With the vote deadlocked, Martin suggested having staff develop a possible policy to handle leave requests so that the full board could have something to look at. Goldman said they can't ask staff to go through the exercise of spending time drawing up a policy with the committee split on the issue.

The situation was resolved when the committee backed a motion from Kushner to send the issue to the executive committee to decide what to do next. The executive committee, consisting of board chair Kevin Hill and vice chair Keith Sutton, could let the issue die, send it back to the policy committee or refer it to the whole board.

Read more here: <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/wakeed/wake-county-school-board-committee-debates-guaranteeing-school-spots-for-families-who-want-to#storylink=cpy>

Possible Seat Allocation Solutions for 2012-13

DRAFT 6/18/12

Theory of action underlying the possible solutions

High concentrations of low-performing students in a single school have consequences for teacher recruitment and retention, resource allocation, and ultimately student achievement. If the concentration of students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting standards is too high within a school, student achievement is likely to suffer in the absence of significant, sustained intervention. Managing that concentration across all schools in the district will help prevent any one school from getting into a situation where they cannot meet the needs of all of their students.

Proposed solutions

1. Establish a **target range** to set a minimum and a maximum for each school based on the percentage of students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting achievement standards.

| ↙ | How it would be implemented:

- Staff will calculate for each school the percentage of enrolled students for 2012-13 who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting achievement standards. This calculation could be based on one of the following:
 - ↔ ⊕ ⊗ The percentage of students enrolled who scored below Level III on their most recent EOG and EOC tests. For students who have not yet taken those tests (students in grades K-3, students new to the system, etc.), the historical performance level for the node in which they reside would be used as a proxy.
 - ↔ ⊕ ⊗ The percentage of students enrolled who reside in historically low-performing nodes as defined in the assignment plan.
- The distribution of school proficiency projections will be examined, and a target range will be set.
- Once a school falls outside the target range, new students who would add to the imbalance are no longer eligible to enroll at those schools unless and until future enrollment changes bring the school back within the target range.

| ↙ | Options:

- Could be implemented only at Kindergarten, only at entry grades (K, 6, and 9), or at all grades.
- Target range can be set for all schools, by grade span, or even individual schools.
- Target range(s) can be re-evaluated annually if necessary.

| ↙ | Who would be affected?

- If implemented immediately for 2012-13:
 - ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Would affect pending waitlist processing and transfer requests for some existing students.

☞☞☞ Would allow the policy to begin to have impact starting with new enrollees and students who change addresses.

☞☞☞ Students who are already enrolled for 2012-13 would stay where they are.

○ If implemented after waitlist expiration (July 18) for 2012-13:

☞☞☞ Would NOT affect pending waitlist processing and transfer requests.

☞☞☞ Would allow the policy to begin to have impact starting with new enrollees and students who change addresses after July 18.

☞☞☞ Students who are already enrolled for 2012-13 would stay where they are unless they are granted a transfer or given a waitlist seat at a first-choice school between now and July 18.

|└| Implementation in future years (2013-14 and forward):

○ Would be programmatically incorporated into the choice selection process and seating algorithms.

○ Would affect rising Kindergarteners in 2013-14 and any other students new to the system or who were trying to change schools.

|└| Other Considerations:

○ If a school moves outside the target range, those seats will have to be held open even if other students who would add to the imbalance might want to enroll.

○ May not be amenable to a technology-based solution on such short notice; it would have to be done manually by Office of Student Assignment staff as students enroll.

○ Controls to balance achievement may or may not ensure balance in other areas (poverty, etc.).

2. Establish a **fixed maximum seat allocation** for each school based on the percentage of students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting achievement standards

|└| How it would be implemented:

○ Staff will calculate for each school the percentage of enrolled students for 2012-13 who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting achievement standards. This calculation could be based on one of the following:

☞☞☞ The percentage of students enrolled who scored below Level III on their most recent EOG and EOC tests. For students who have not yet taken those tests (students in grades K-3, students new to the system, etc.), the historical performance level for the node in which they reside would be used as a proxy.

☞☞☞ The percentage of students enrolled who reside in historically low-performing nodes as defined in the assignment plan.

- The distribution of those school percentages will be examined, and a maximum percentage of seats will be designated at each school for students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting standards.
- As students enroll and/or withdraw from a school over time, the availability of seats for new incoming students will be monitored such that each school will not exceed their maximum seat allocation for students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting standards. If a seat opens up at a school which is above its maximum, then students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting standards will not be eligible for that seat.

| J | Options:

- Could be implemented only at Kindergarten, only at entry grades (K, 6, and 9), or at all grades.
- Seat allocation can be individualized to specific schools if necessary
- ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Could be implemented at specific higher-needs schools (lower-proficiency/growth, higher poverty, etc.).
- Seat allocation can be adjusted annually if necessary.

| J | Who would be affected?

- If implemented immediately for 2012-13:
- ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Would affect pending waitlist processing and transfer requests for some existing students.
- ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Would allow the policy to begin to have impact starting with new enrollees and students who change addresses.
- ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Students who are already enrolled for 2012-13 would stay where they are
- If implemented after waitlist expiration (July 18) for 2012-13:
- ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Would NOT affect pending waitlist processing and transfer requests.
- ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Would allow the policy to begin to have impact starting with new enrollees and students who change addresses after July 18.
- ↔ ⊕ ⊗ Students who are already enrolled for 2012-13 would stay where they are unless they are granted a transfer or given a waitlist seat at a first-choice school between now and July 18.

| J | Implementation in future years (2013-14 and forward):

- Would be programmatically incorporated into the choice selection process and seating algorithms.
- Would affect rising Kindergarteners in 2013-14 and any other students new to the system or who were trying to change schools.

| J | Other Considerations:

- If a school reaches the maximum, any seats that might still be open would have to be held open, even if students who would add to the imbalance might want to enroll.

- May not be amenable to a technology-based solution on such short notice it would have to be done manually by Office of Student Assignment staff as students enroll
- Controls to balance achievement may or may not ensure balance in other areas (poverty, etc.)
- If the maximum is reached at a given school, there need to be sufficient options to seat students at other schools on their choice list. In the absence of a minimum at all schools, or in areas where capacity is extremely tight, this may not be realistic.

3. Establish a **fixed minimum seat allocation** for each school based on the percentage of students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting achievement standards

How it would be implemented:

- Staff will calculate for each school the percentage of enrolled students for 2012-13 who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting achievement standards. This calculation could be based on one of the following:
 - ☞☞☞ The percentage of students enrolled who scored below Level III on their most recent EOG and EOC tests. For students who have not yet taken those tests (students in grades K-3, students new to the system, etc.), the historical performance level for the node in which they reside would be used as a proxy.
 - ☞☞☞ The percentage of students enrolled who reside in historically low-performing nodes as defined in the assignment plan.
- The distribution of school percentages will be examined, and minimum percentage of seats will be designated at each school for students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting standards.
- As students enroll and/or withdraw from a school over time, the availability of seats for new incoming students will be monitored such that each school will maintain their minimum seat allocation for students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting standards. If a seat opens up at a school which is below its minimum, then only students who are (or who are at risk of) not meeting standards will be eligible for that seat.

Options:

- Could be implemented only at Kindergarten, only at entry grades (K, 6, and 9), or at all grades
- Could be implemented only at high-performing schools as defined in the assignment plan
- ☞☞☞ Would be more targeted and strategic, but
- ☞☞☞ Would also require a larger per-school minimum since not all schools would be involved
- Seat allocation can be individualized to specific schools if necessary
- Seat allocation can be adjusted annually if necessary

Who would be affected?

- If implemented immediately for 2012-13:

Facing projections of a record 153,000 students for the 2012-2013 school year, Wake County school board members agreed Tuesday to wait for a year to set aside specific seats for students from low-income areas who have not indicated what school they want to attend.

Previously, the board had asked staff to assign such students to the system's better performing – and usually more popular – schools to promote a diverse student population.

However, staff said Tuesday the crush of new students meant that there was no practical way to allocate specific seats for students who haven't enrolled yet.

Setting aside seats for those who haven't chosen would mean turning away some students who have made a selection, said administrator Brad McMillen.

"We would have to say, 'There are seats available, but not for you,'" McMillen said.

The decision not to set aside seats got backing from both Republicans and Democrats. The decision came as the latest chapter in a three-year struggle over student assignment, during which a previous emphasis on diversity was discarded.

The choice-based plan in effect this year was generally opposed by Democrats who were concerned about high concentrations of low-performing students in downtown schools. The board and administration have begun work on a plan that would again tie addresses in Wake County to specific schools and to address balance among schools based on academic achievement.

Democratic member Keith Sutton, whose district includes Southeast Raleigh, expressed concern that needs of low-performing schools and students could be passed over without a specific remedy. Schools superintendent Tony Tata said the system has already set up means to work with schools that appear to be facing real academic trouble as the school year progresses.

"There is still a concern that everybody has of managing the concentration of high-need students," Sutton said.

"We need to be proactive, so that we are not sitting here at the end of the year saying, 'Oh, what happened?'"

The process can include monitoring schools' performance and providing more help to schools by targeting federal dollars, Tata said.

Republican members John Tedesco and Debra Goldman backed the delay, noting that schools staff are already offering high-performing schools as choices to families who are still in the process of registering.

In addition, Tedesco said, the board is already committed to making changes to the new choice-based plan, changes that could take care of the potential concentrations of low-performing students.

"Seeing that we have already approved that next year we are going to be making some changes, I would be inclined to take the staff's recommendations," Tedesco said. "They are seeing it from the ground up."

Democratic member Susan Evans said she is worried about some of the signs emerging from the choice plan. In one example, more than 20 schools have had increases of more than 10 percentage points in the ranks of white kindergartners.

“While I am not happy with some of the trends that have evolved with the choice process – I do believe that trying to do this at this point is probably too little, too late,” Evans said.

The item on set-asides was on the agenda for Tuesday’s 5:30 p.m. full board meeting, but was pulled from the lineup based on the board’s agreement at the work session discussion

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/07/25/2218896/wake-board-punts-on-setting-aside.html#storylink=misearch#storylink=cpy>